

SPACE ADVENTURES

10¢ NO. 6
CDC



THE FIRST
CONTACT WITH A
FLYING SAUCER!!

READ

"TWO WORLDS"

In this issue!

STAN
CAMPBELL

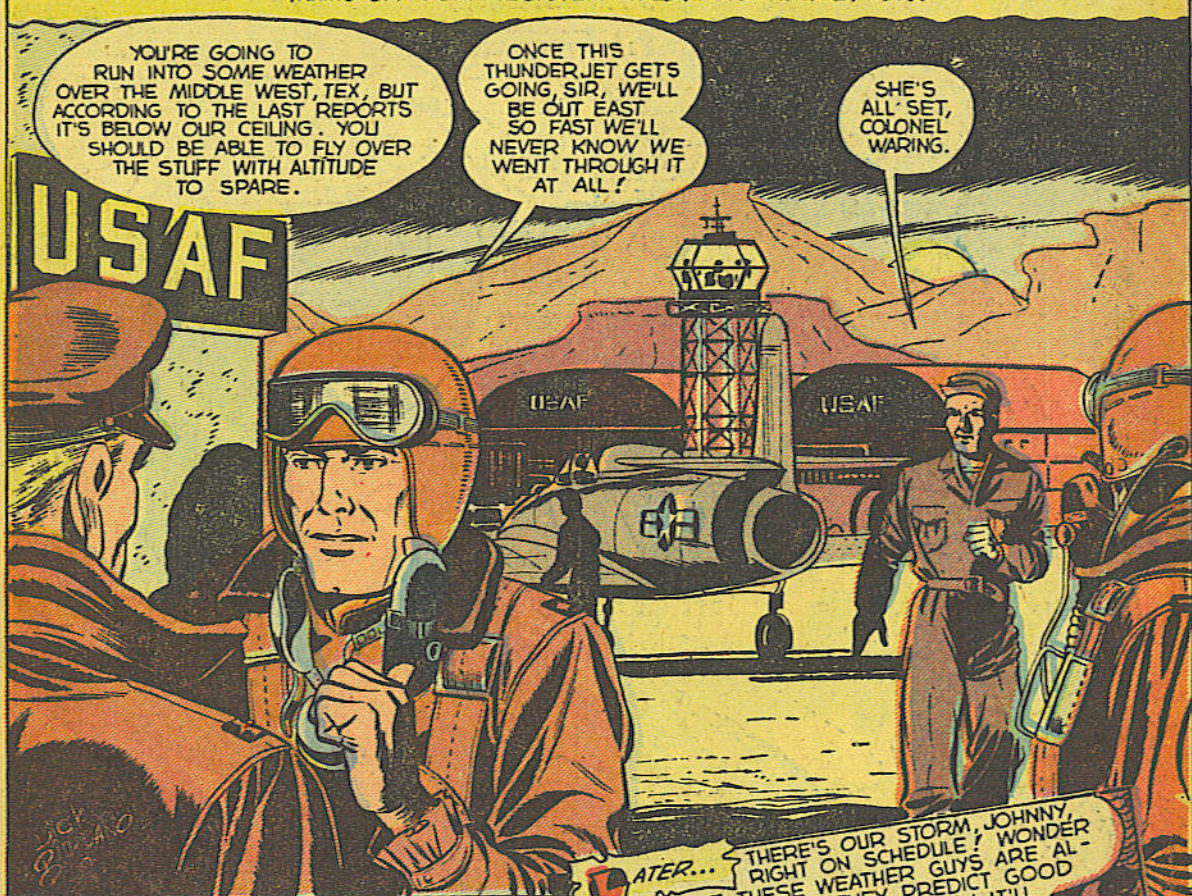


WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

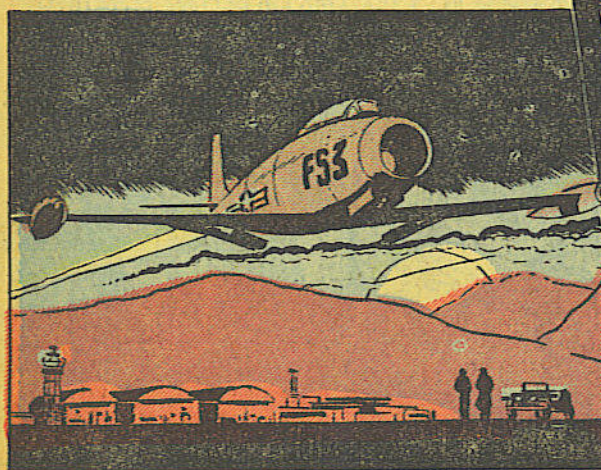
SPACE ADVENTURES

TWO WORLDS

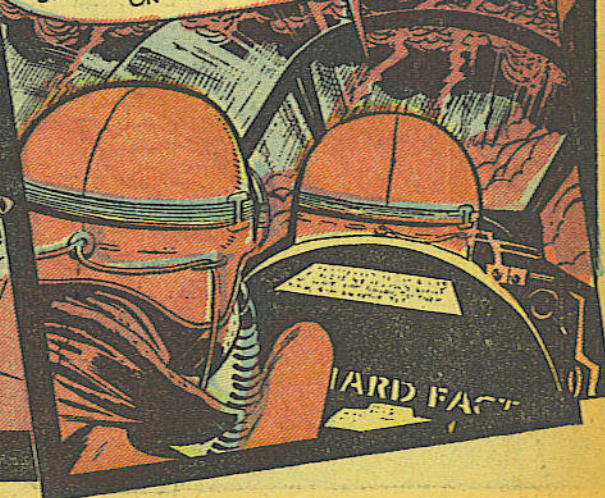
ON THE WARM-UP APRON OF A NEW MEXICO AIR FORCE BASE LT. COLONEL "TEX" WARING AND HIS CO-PILOT, 2ND LT. JOHNNY WILDE, ARE BRIEFED BY THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER BEFORE TAKING OFF FOR WESTOVER FIELD, MASSACHUSETTS...



MOMENTS LATER THE FIGHTER LEAVES THE RUNWAY WITH A WHISTLING ROAR FROM THE TAIL PIPE.



LATER... THERE'S OUR STORM, JOHNNY, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! WONDER HOW COME THESE WEATHER GUYS ARE ALWAYS WRONG WHEN THEY SAY IT'LL WEATHER ... BUT WHEN THEY SAY IT'LL STORM, THEY ALWAYS HIT IT RIGHT ON THE NOSE!



SPACE ADVENTURES

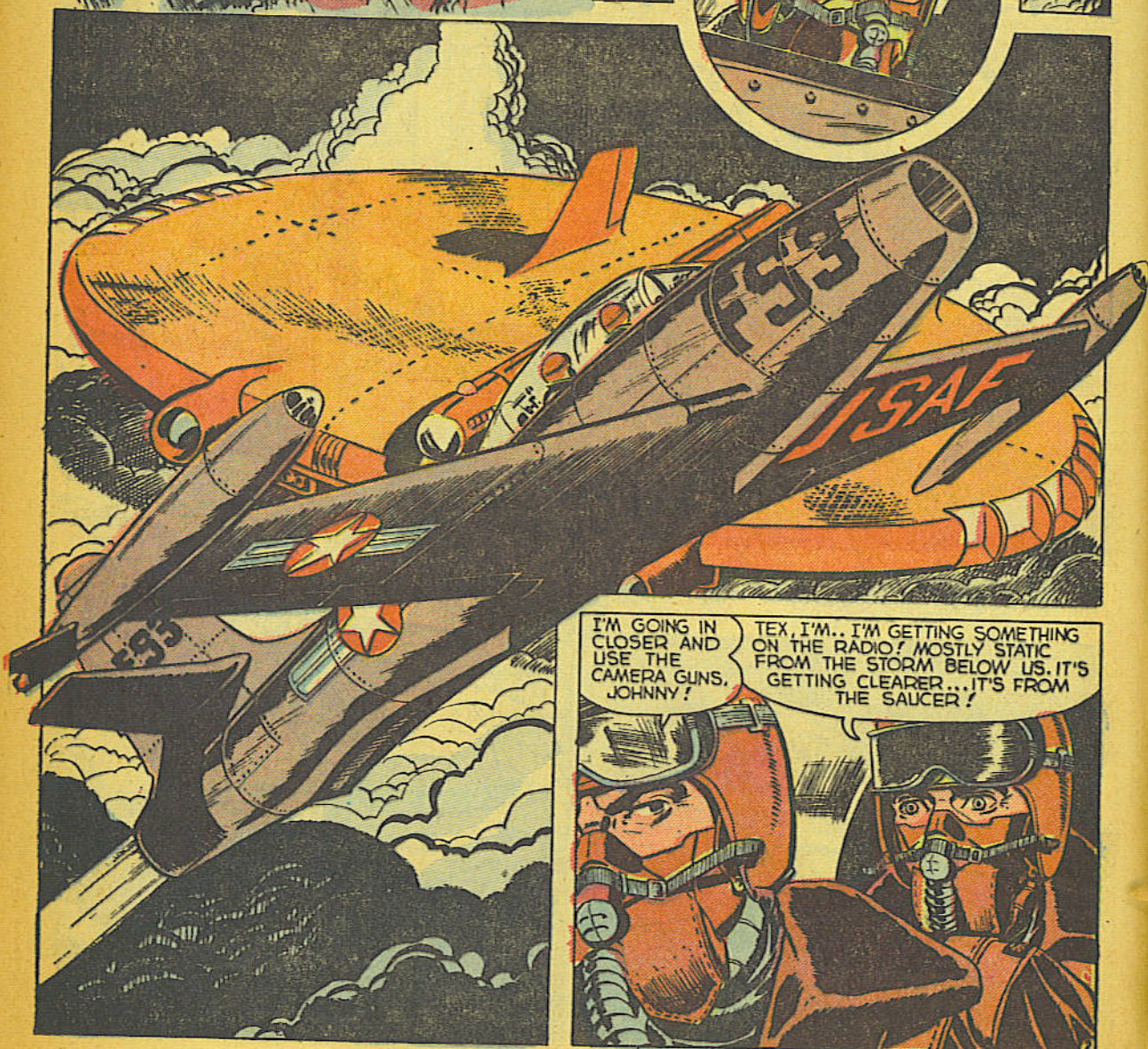
HANG ONTO YOUR BONNET,
I'M GOING UP AND TAKE A
LOOK FOR THAT CEILING THE
OLD MAN WAS TALKING
ABOUT!

LET HER
SHORT,
TEX...

HEY, CAME THE
DAWN, PARTNER!
THAT BLUE SKY
LOOKS...

TEX! LOOK OVER THERE
...LOOK OFF
YOUR
LEFT WING
TIP!

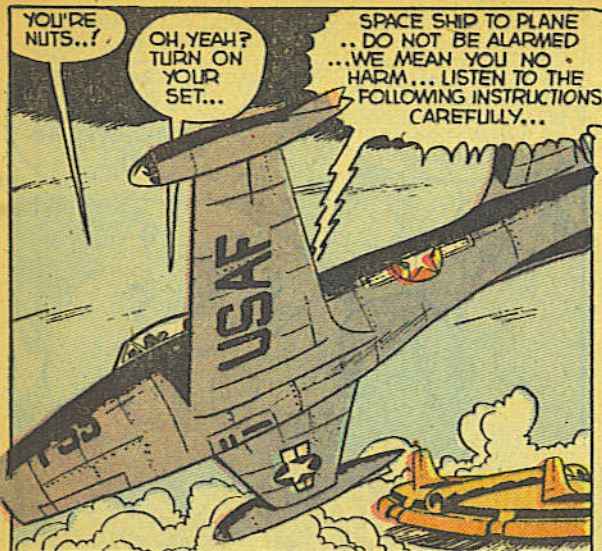
YE GODS AND
LITTLE FISHES! I DIDN'T
THINK THEY..EXISTED!



I'M GOING IN
CLOSER AND
USE THE
CAMERA GUNS,
JOHNNY!

TEX, I'M... I'M GETTING SOMETHING
ON THE RADIO! MOSTLY STATIC
FROM THE STORM BELOW US. IT'S
GETTING CLEARER...IT'S FROM
THE SAUCER!

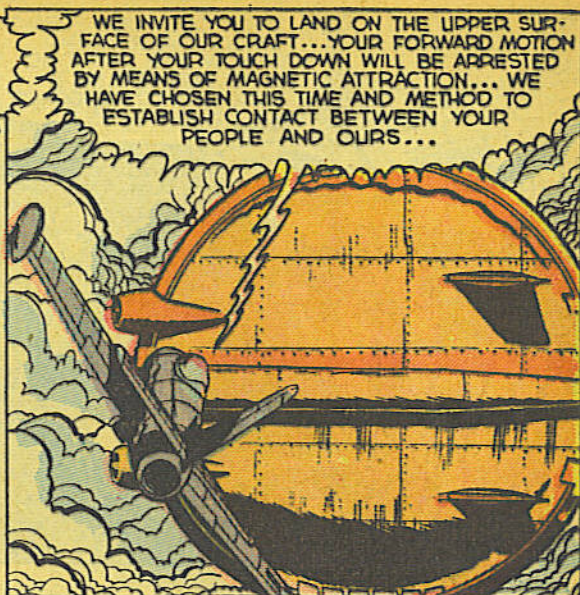
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YOU'RE NUTS...!

OH, YEAH? TURN ON YOUR SET...

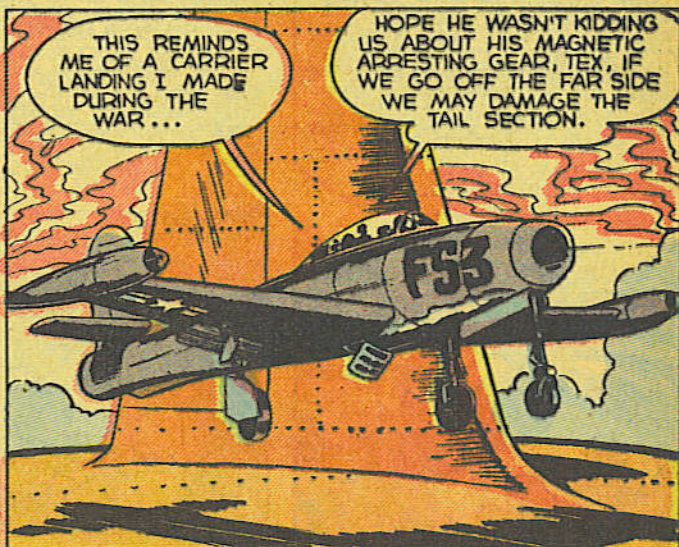
SPACE SHIP TO PLANE... DO NOT BE ALARMED... WE MEAN YOU NO HARM... LISTEN TO THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY...



WE INVITE YOU TO LAND ON THE UPPER SURFACE OF OUR CRAFT... YOUR FORWARD MOTION AFTER YOUR TOUCH DOWN WILL BE ARRESTED BY MEANS OF MAGNETIC ATTRACTION... WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS TIME AND METHOD TO ESTABLISH CONTACT BETWEEN YOUR PEOPLE AND OURS...

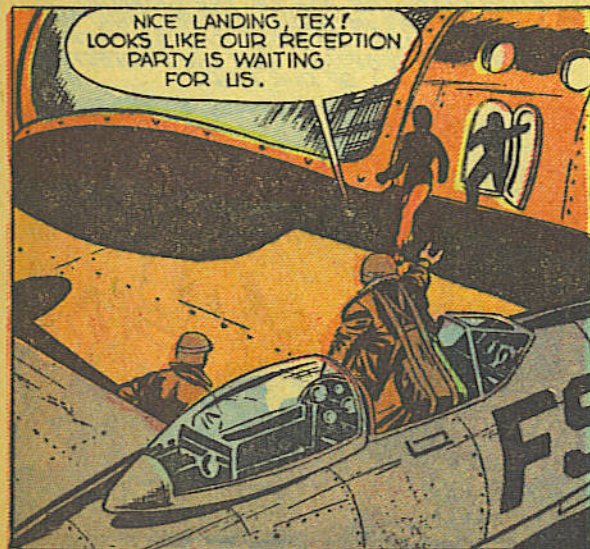
THIS IS A LITTLE BEYOND THE REGULATION BOOK, JOHNNY, SO I'M FORGETTING OUR RESPECTIVE GRADES AND THE FACT THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN COMMAND... I'M ALL FOR TAKING THEM UP ON IT... BUT ONLY WITH YOUR CONSENT!

I AGREED WITH YOU BEFORE THE WORDS WERE OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, TEX! LET'S GO!



THIS REMINDS ME OF A CARRIER LANDING I MADE DURING THE WAR...

HOPE HE WASN'T KIDDING US ABOUT HIS MAGNETIC ARRESTING GEAR, TEX, IF WE GO OFF THE FAR SIDE WE MAY DAMAGE THE TAIL SECTION.



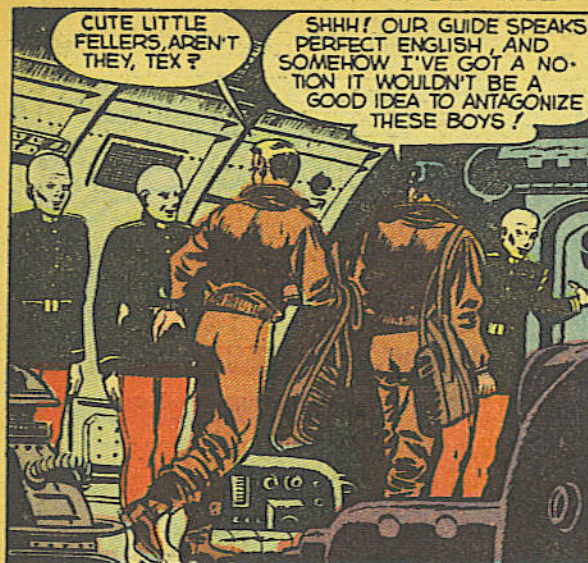
NICE LANDING, TEX! LOOKS LIKE OUR RECEPTION PARTY IS WAITING FOR US.



GREETINGS, MEN FROM EARTH! WILL YOU BE SO KIND AS TO ALLOW ME TO ESCORT YOU TO MY COMMANDER...

CHARMED, I'M SURE...

SPACE ADVENTURES



CUTE LITTLE FELLERS, AREN'T THEY, TEX?

SHHH! OUR GUIDE SPEAKS PERFECT ENGLISH, AND SOMEHOW I'VE GOT A NOTION IT WOULDN'T BE A GOOD IDEA TO ANTAGONIZE THESE BOYS!



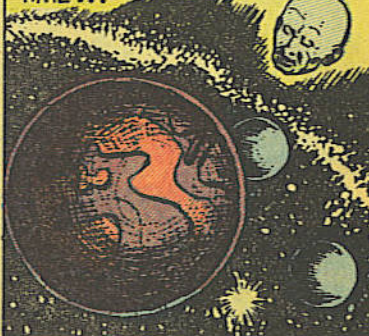
PLEASE BE SEATED, GENTLEMEN. I AM COMMANDER GORT, OR AT LEAST THAT IS AS NEAR AS I CAN TRANSLATE MY NAME TO YOUR LANGUAGE. MY SECOND OFFICER WILL SHORTLY SUPPLY US WITH REFRESHMENTS...

THANK YOU COMMANDER. THIS IS LIEUTENANT JOHN WILDE, AND I AM COLONEL EDWARD WARING, OFFICERS OF THE AIR FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

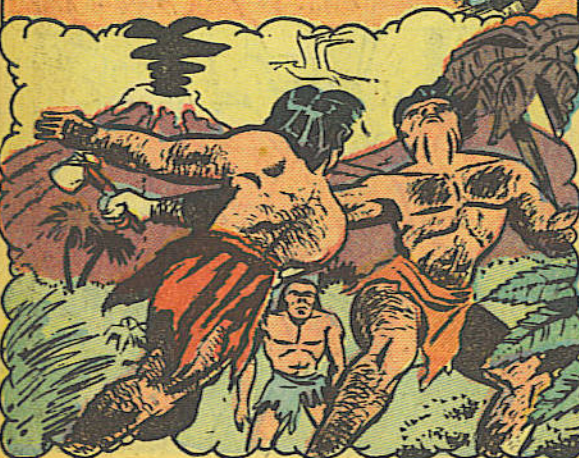
YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH US WAS NOT ENTIRELY BY ACCIDENT, COLONEL. I WAS SENT TO MAKE CONTACT AND I CHOSE THIS METHOD, RATHER THAN RISK THE PANIC OF YOUR PEOPLE AT SEEING A SPACECRAFT FROM ANOTHER PLANET LANDING IN THEIR MIDST! I HOPE YOU WILL ACT AS MY LIASON WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT...

I SHALL LEAD UP TO THE PURPOSE OF OUR ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH YOUR PLANET BY TELLING YOU FIRST OF OUR BACKGROUND... THE HISTORY OF MY PEOPLE! OUR HISTORY DATES BACK MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE YOURS, AND ORIGINATED MILLIONS OF YOUR EARTH MILES FROM HERE, ON THE MOONS OF THE PLANET YOU CALL SATURN!

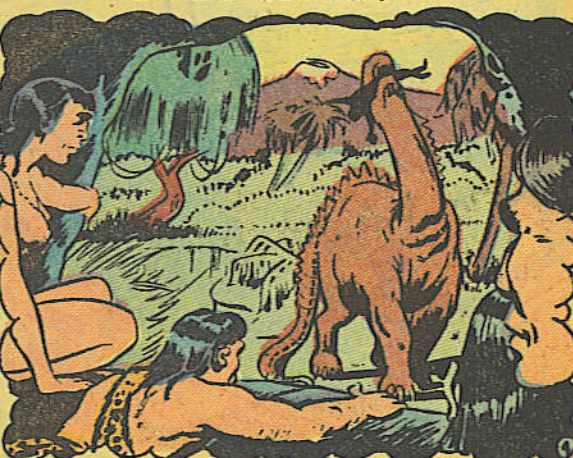
"IN THE BEGINNING THERE WERE BUT TWO MOONS OF SATURN, INSTEAD OF THE 'RINGS' NOW PRESENT AROUND THE PLANET. THEY TRAVELLED SWIFTLY IN OPPOSING ORBITS, MISSING EACH OTHER BY A THOUSAND MILES AT THEIR CLOSEST OPPOSITION. LIFE BEGAN ON BOTH MOONS AT THE SAME TIME..."



"OUR EARLY HISTORY WAS MUCH THE SAME AS YOURS. LIFE CRAWLED FROM THE SEAS AND AGES LATER BECAME MAN. AT FIRST WE FOUGHT ONE ANOTHER..."



"THEN CAME THE AGE OF THE GIGANTIC BEASTS, AS IN YOUR HISTORY! THAT WAS WHEN WE CEASED TO FIGHT ONE ANOTHER AND Banded TOGETHER FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL OF OUR KIND!"



SPACE ADVENTURES

"THOUSANDS OF YEARS LATER WE CAME TO THE TELESCOPIC PERIOD, AND WE DISCOVERED THAT WE WERE NOT UNIQUE IN THE UNIVERSE...MY ANCESTORS KNEW AT LEAST THAT THERE WERE, IN FACT, TWO WORLDS!"

"IT WAS A TERRIFIC STEP FORWARD WHEN WE DISCOVERED A MEANS OF SPACE TRAVEL. FOR THEN IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR MY FOOLISH ANCESTORS TO BEGIN THE THOUSAND YEARS' WAR!"

"AND THERE OUR HISTORIES DIFFERED. WE ATTAINED SPACE TRAVEL FIRST, THE BOMBS FROM HYDROGEN CAME LATER...A THOUSAND YEARS LATER!"

THESE PHOTOGRAPHS PROVE IT... THERE IS ANOTHER CIVILIZED WORLD! IT PASSES WITHIN TWELVE MICRONEUMS OF OUR PLANET EACH SECOND PERIOD! THIS INFORMATION MUST GO ONLY TO OUR GOVERNMENT...NOT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

OUR SPACE FLEET IS READY AND WAITING. OUR ARMED FORCES ARE AT THE PEAK OF MOBILIZATION! WE AWAIT ONLY YOUR VOTE TONIGHT AND WE SHALL ATTACK! WITHIN FOUR PERIODS WE SHALL HAVE CONQUERED THE OTHER WORLD!

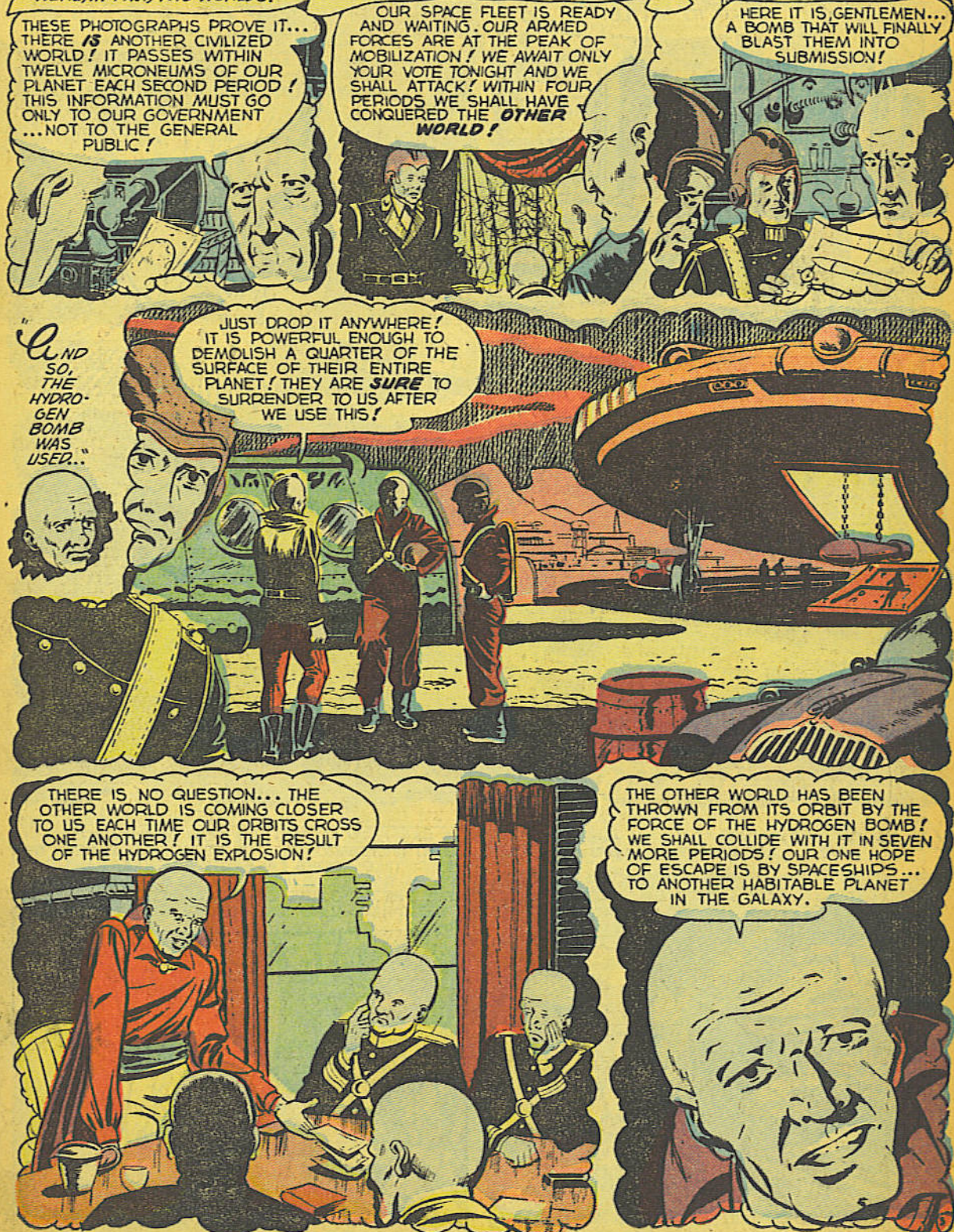
HERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN... A BOMB THAT WILL FINALLY BLAST THEM INTO SUBMISSION!

"AND SO, THE HYDROGEN BOMB WAS USED..."

JUST DROP IT ANYWHERE! IT IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DEMOLISH A QUARTER OF THE SURFACE OF THEIR ENTIRE PLANET! THEY ARE SURE TO SURRENDER TO US AFTER WE USE THIS!

THERE IS NO QUESTION... THE OTHER WORLD IS COMING CLOSER TO US EACH TIME OUR ORBITS CROSS ONE ANOTHER! IT IS THE RESULT OF THE HYDROGEN EXPLOSION!

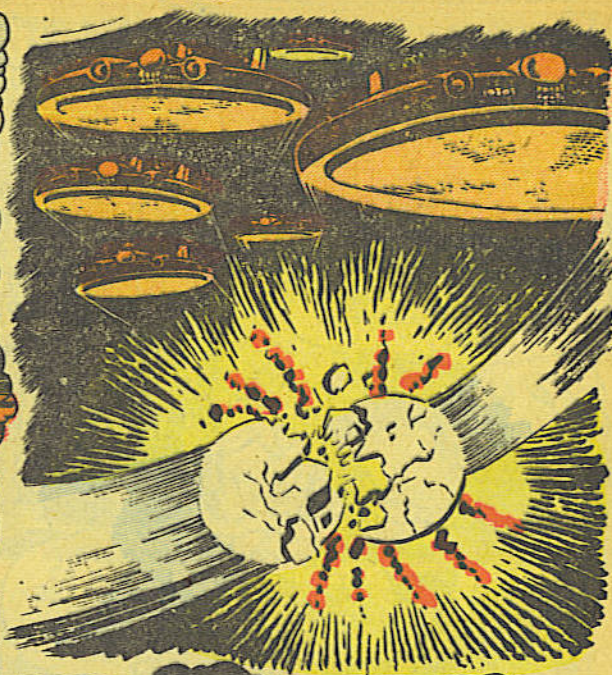
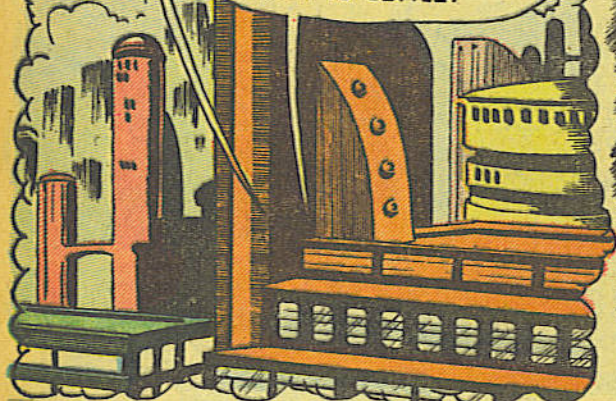
THE OTHER WORLD HAS BEEN THROWN FROM ITS ORBIT BY THE FORCE OF THE HYDROGEN BOMB! WE SHALL COLLIDE WITH IT IN SEVEN MORE PERIODS! OUR ONE HOPE OF ESCAPE IS BY SPACESHIPS... TO ANOTHER HABITABLE PLANET IN THE GALAXY.



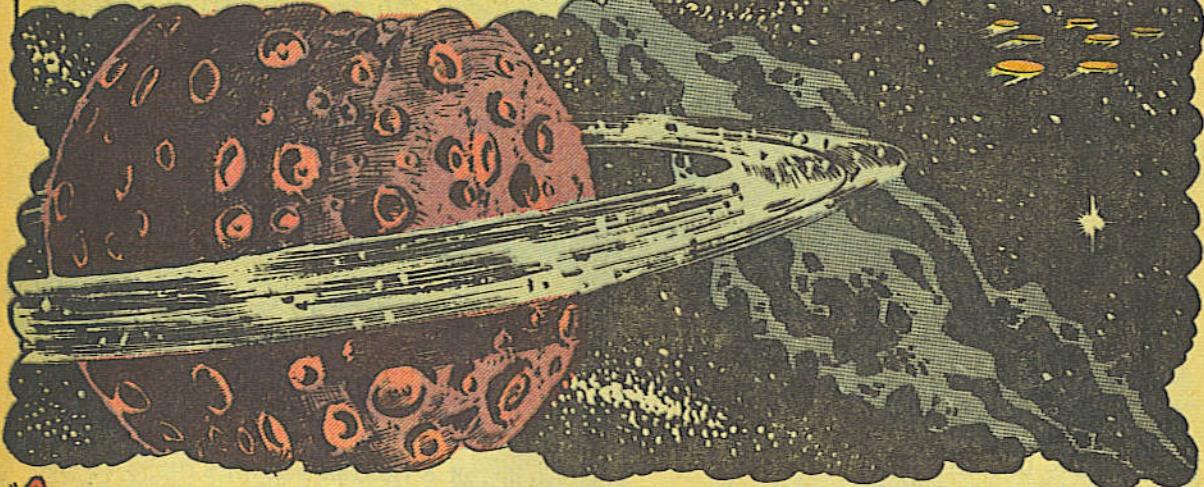
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BUT WHAT PLANET?
THE HUGE PLANET
NEAREST US HAS
A POISONOUS
ATMOSPHERE!
WE CANNOT
GO THERE.

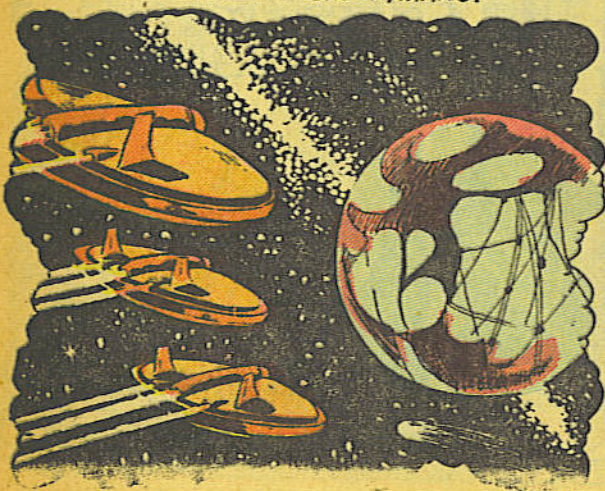
WE MUST BUILD SHIPS... AS
MANY AS POSSIBLE... AND
PICK THE CREAM OF OUR
RACE. AN EQUAL NUMBER OF
EACH SEX. THEY WILL VOYAGE
INTO THE OUTER REACHES IN
SEARCH OF A PLANET ON
WHICH TO SETTLE.



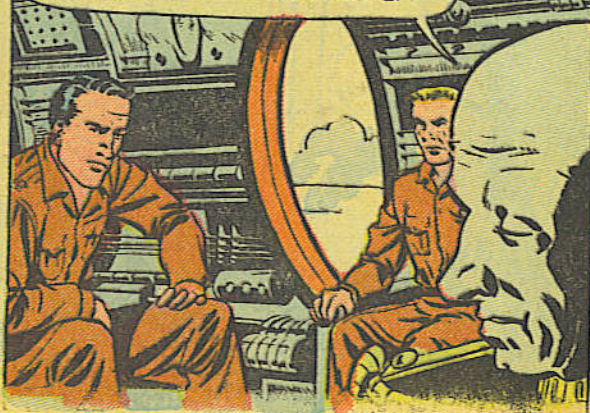
AND SO OUR WORLD AND THE OTHER ONE,
OUR CITIES, OUR VERY PEOPLE, WERE
BLASTED TO FRAGMENTS... FRAGMENTS WHICH
CONTINUED TO CIRCLE THE MOTHER PLANET,
FORMING A SOLID RING OF MATTER AROUND IT."



AND THE SURVIVORS FOUND A HABITABLE
WORLD. YOUR NEIGHBOR, MARS!"



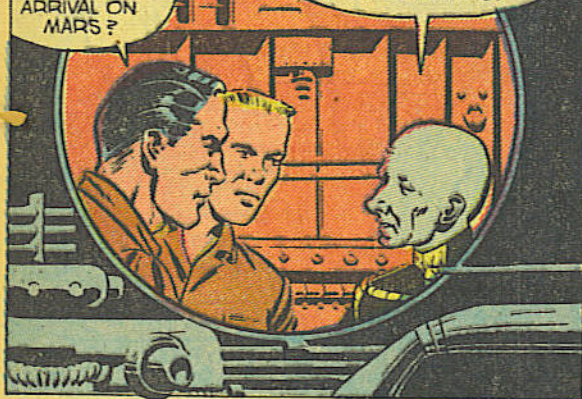
IT HAS BEEN A HARD LIFE FOR US ON MARS. WE'VE
LIVED UNDERGROUND... TO ESCAPE BEING SEEN BY
YOUR TELESCOPES ON EARTH! WE DUG CANALS
FROM THE POLAR ICE CAPS TO IRRIGATE CROPS,
BUT THE CAPS ARE DISAPPEARING...
THE CANALS LONG SINCE DRIED UP.



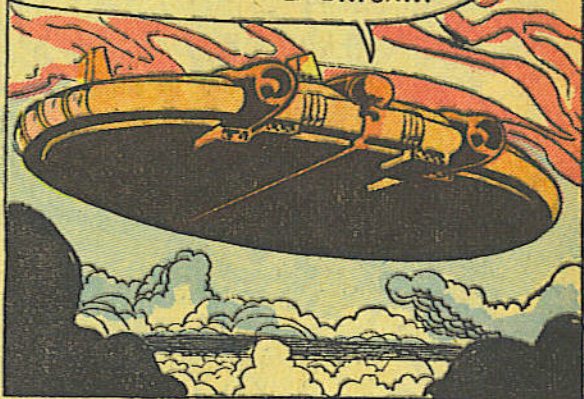
SPACE ADVENTURES

I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND NOW, COMMANDER. YOUR SAUCERS, AS WE CALL THEM, HAVE BEEN KEEPING US UNDER SURVEILLANCE SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL ON MARS?

CORRECT. FOR OVER THREE HUNDRED YEARS! AT FIRST YOU WERE TOO MANY FOR US... WE WERE AFRAID OF YOUR NUMBERS... THOUGH WE HAVE WANTED YOUR PLANET FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!



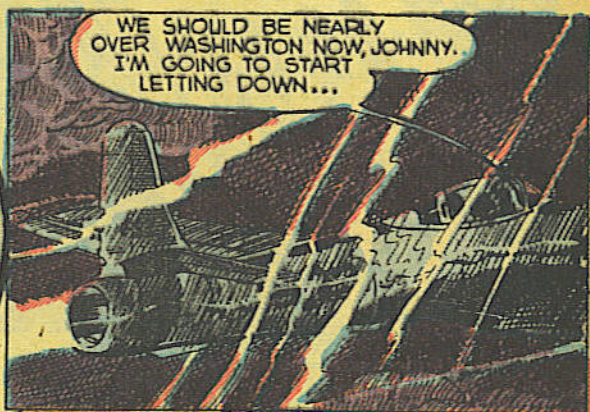
YOU NO LONGER OUTNUMBER US, COLONEL. NOR ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST US... AND SO I COME TO THE REASON FOR OUR CONTACT WITH YOUR PEOPLE. I'VE BEEN SENT TO DELIVER AN ULTIMATUM TO YOU! GATHER THE PEOPLE OF EARTH ONTO ONE HALF OF YOUR GLOBE... AND ALLOW US TO INHABIT THE REMAINING HALF IN PEACE... OR...



...OR WE SHALL WIPE YOU OUT AND CLAIM **ALL** OF YOUR PLANET! YOU WILL CONTACT US AGAIN.. BY RADIO.. WITHIN TWENTY FOUR OF YOUR EARTH HOURS. URGE YOUR SUPERIORS TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY, COLONEL! YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE WHENEVER YOU WISH.



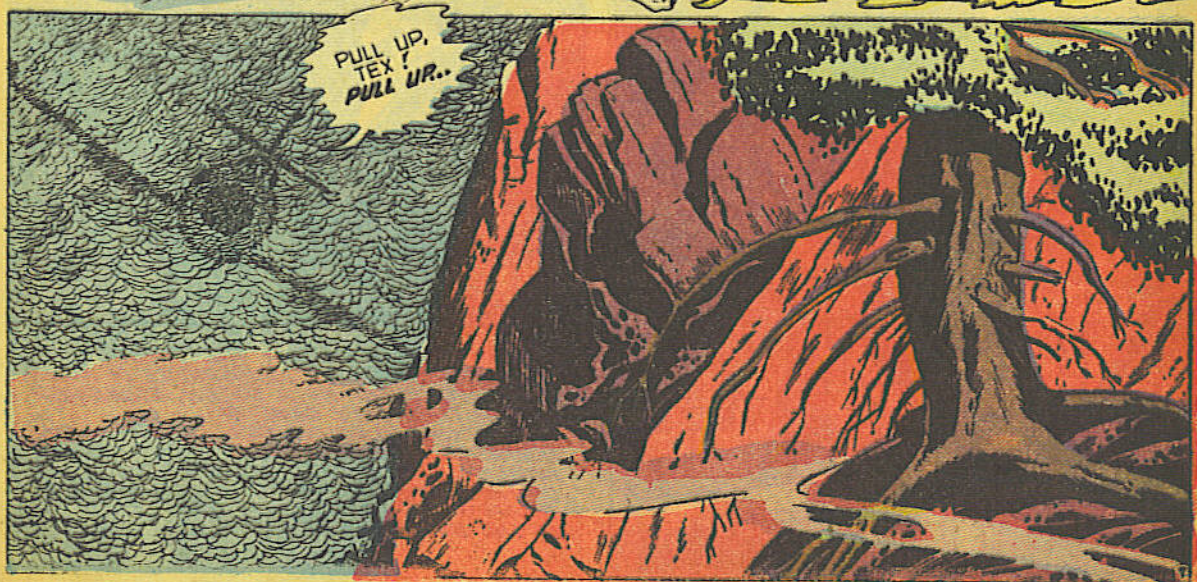
WE SHOULD BE NEARLY OVER WASHINGTON NOW, JOHNNY. I'M GOING TO START LETTING DOWN...



OVER WASHINGTON, COLONEL? PERHAPS... PERHAPS NOT! YOU'RE FLYING ON INSTRUMENTS, AREN'T YOU, COLONEL? REMEMBER THE MAGNETIC ARRESTING GEAR ON THE SAUCER? COULD IT HAVE HAD ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON YOUR COMPASS... ON YOUR OTHER INSTRUMENTS?



PULL UP, TEX! PULL UP...

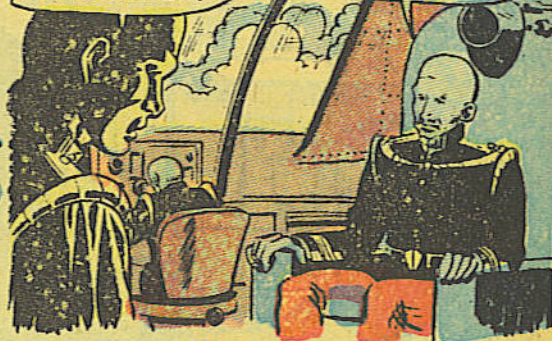


SPACE ADVENTURES



THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD, COMMANDER. INDEED, THEY SEEM TO HAVE IGNORED US ALTOGETHER!

OUR RECEIVING SETS ARE OPERATING CORRECTLY?

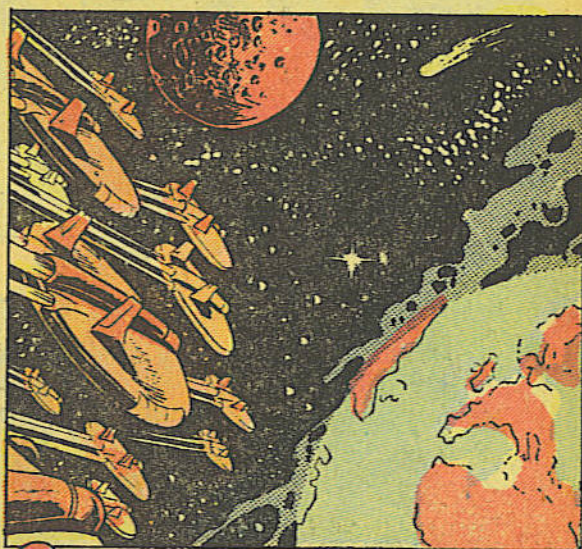


YES, SIR, WE ARE MONITORING THE EARTH COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS AS WE ALWAYS HAVE...

I'M TRULY SORRY THEY SAW FIT TO TAKE THIS ATTITUDE...



VERY WELL, TELL THE OPERATOR TO SEND THE MESSAGE ...TO MARS...



SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE FIRST SAUCER LEFT THE ATMOSPHERE OF MARS. IT WAS FOLLOWED BY A DOZEN, A HUNDRED ... AND THEN THEY CAME IN FORMATIONS IN COUNTLESS NUMBERS...THE MIGHTIEST INVASION FORCE IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE... AND DISAPPEARED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE UNSUSPECTING EARTH...



SPACE ADVENTURES

INVASION FROM VENUS

THIS IS NEW YORK IN THE 26TH CENTURY! YOU THINK IT HASN'T CHANGED MUCH? IT HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL!!! MANHATTAN IS NOW A MUSEUM PIECE AMONG CITIES, KEPT TO REMIND PEOPLE HOW THEIR FOREFATHERS (THAT MEANS YOU!) LIVED BACK IN THE GOOD OLD 1950'S..

LOOK, REX!
WHY, THOSE MUST BE
SOMETHING LIKE THE FLYING
SAUCERS THAT OUR IGNORANT
AND SUPERSTITIOUS ANCESTORS
THOUGHT WERE FROM OTHER
PLANETS! LOOK HOW FAST
THEY ARE COMING IN!

IN FACT, MANHATTAN WAS RATHER A
QUAINT OLD PLACE, WHICH WAS WHY
REX CLIVE AND STELLA DAWN LIKED IT,
UNTIL THE DAY WHEN THE GREAT
INVASION STRUCK!!!

NATURALLY, THEY'RE COMING
FAST, STELLA... WITH THE SPEED
OF LIGHT TO BE EXACT. THEY ARE
MERELY SUNBEAMS, A COLORFUL
OPTICAL ILLUSION! COME...
LET'S TAKE A WALK
ON BROADWAY!

IT WON'T MATTER WHO GETS
ELECTED... THE DEMIJOHNS
OR THE REPROBATES!
WHICHEVER TAKES OFFICE,
THE GRASS WILL SOON
BE GROWING IN THE
MIDDLE OF BROADWAY!

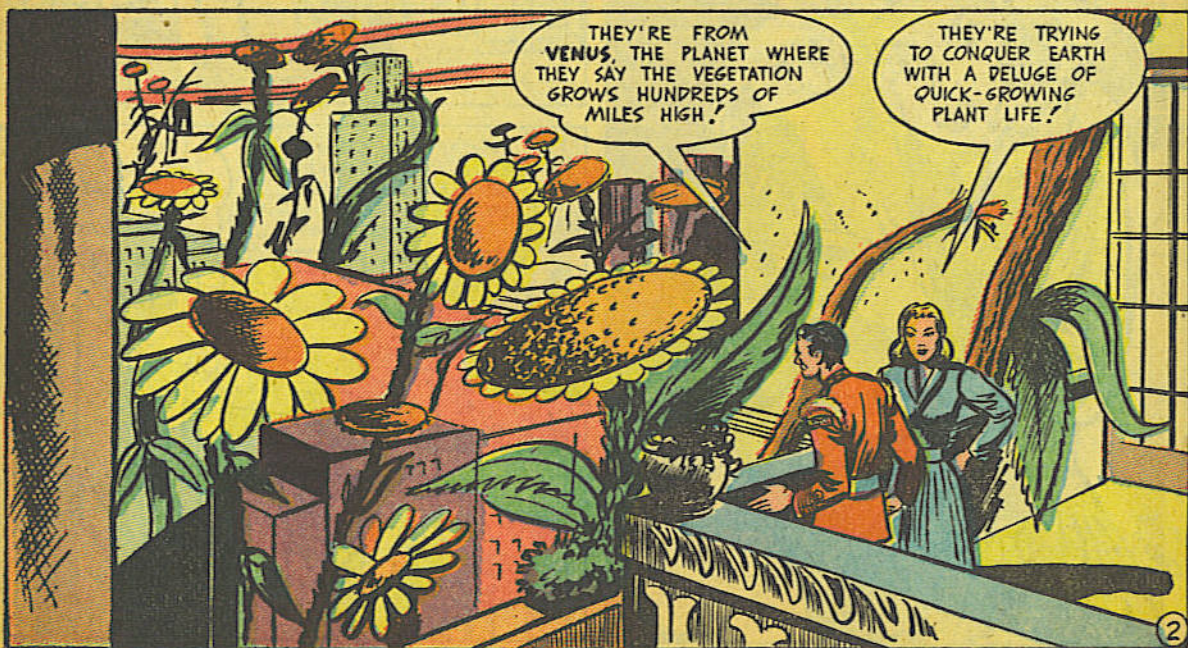
WHAT'S THAT
ODD THING HE'S
STANDING ON,
REX?

A SOAP BOX, STELLA.
BACK BEFORE COMPRESSED
AIR CLEANSERS WERE
INVENTED, PEOPLE USED
STUFF CALLED SOAP...

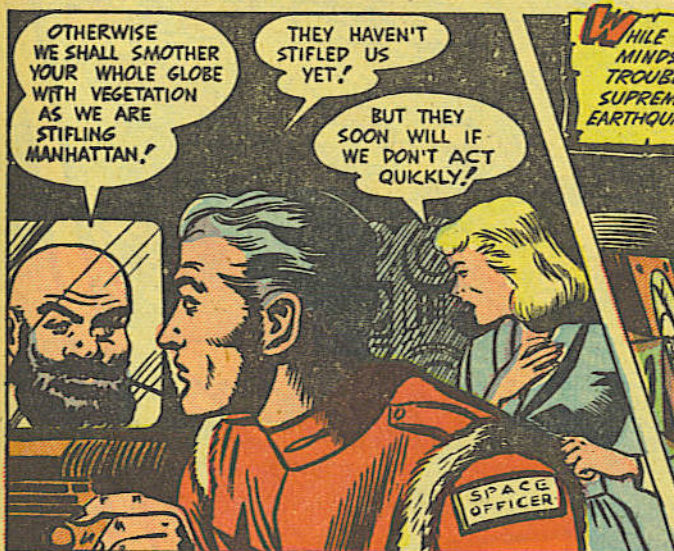
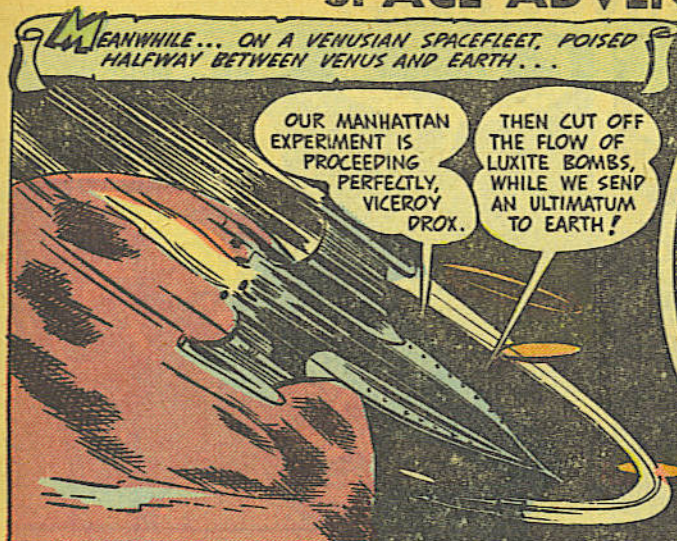
LOOK, REX...
THE MAN WAS
RIGHT. GRASS IS
GROWING ON
BROADWAY!

FRANK
FELLO

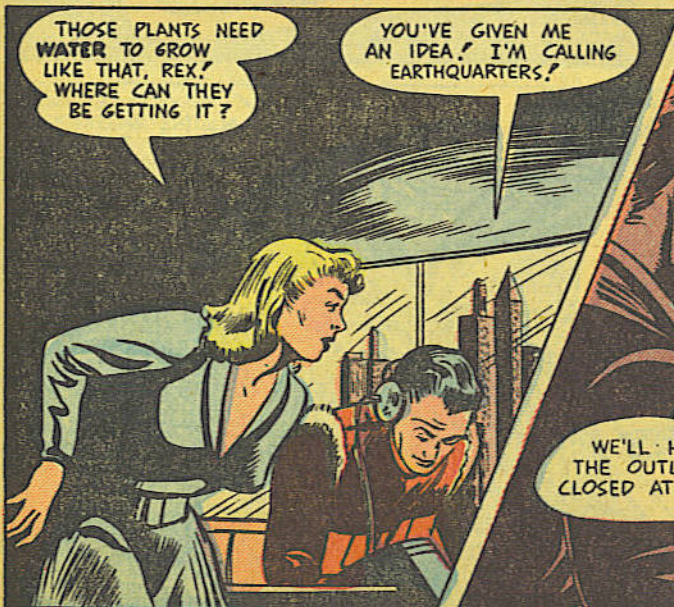
SPACE ADVENTURES



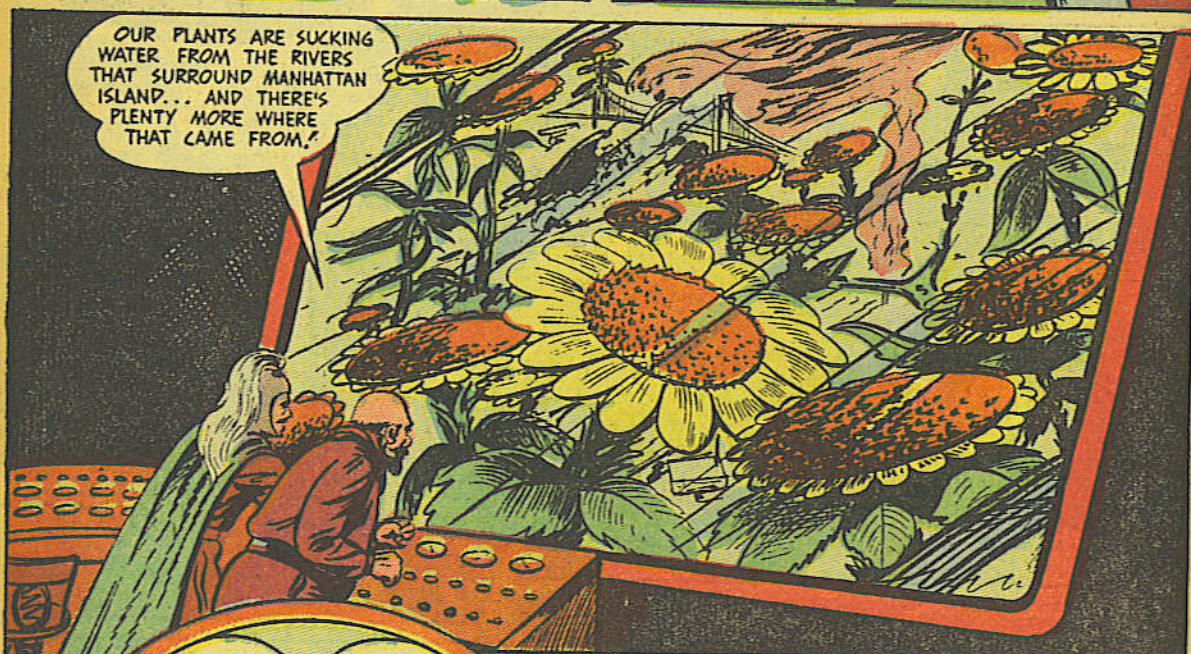
SPACE ADVENTURES



WHILE GREAT MINDS ARE TROUBLED AT SUPREME EARTHQUARTERS...



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

AT EARTHQUARTERS!

ORDER THE SPACE OFFICERS
TO ATTACK THE VENUSFLEET
AT ONCE!

ROCKETING UP ABOVE THE GIGANTIC FALLING
TIMBERS THAT ARE CRASHING AWAY FROM
MANHATTAN, THE SPACE OFFICERS SPEARHEAD
THE ATTACK UPON THE VENUSFLEET...

SMASHED IN MIDSOURCE, THE
REMNANTS OF DROX'S
FLEET FLEES FOR VENUS...

THEY'RE DUCKING
INTO THE VENUS
CLOUD CURTAIN...
AND LET'S HOPE
THIS TIME THEY'LL
STAY!

IF THEY DON'T,
WE'LL BOMBARD
THEM WITH TONS
OF ROCK SALT
AND LET THEIR
OWN VEGETATION
SUFFER!

WHILE ON EARTH...

HOW WONDERFUL,
RIDING FROM NEW YORK
TO THE ANCIENT CITY OF
DETROIT WHERE THEY USED
TO MAKE THESE QUEER
OLD AUTOMOBILES!

WELL, YOU
COULDN'T WANT
A BETTER
TURNPIKE THAN
THE 600 MILE
TRUNK OF A
FALLEN TREE!

BUT WHAT IF THE
VENUSIANS HAD PLASTERED THOSE
LUXITE BOMBS ON DETROIT INSTEAD OF
NEW YORK! THEY'D HAVE GOTTEN ALL
THE FRESH WATER THEY NEEDED
FROM THE GREAT LAKES!

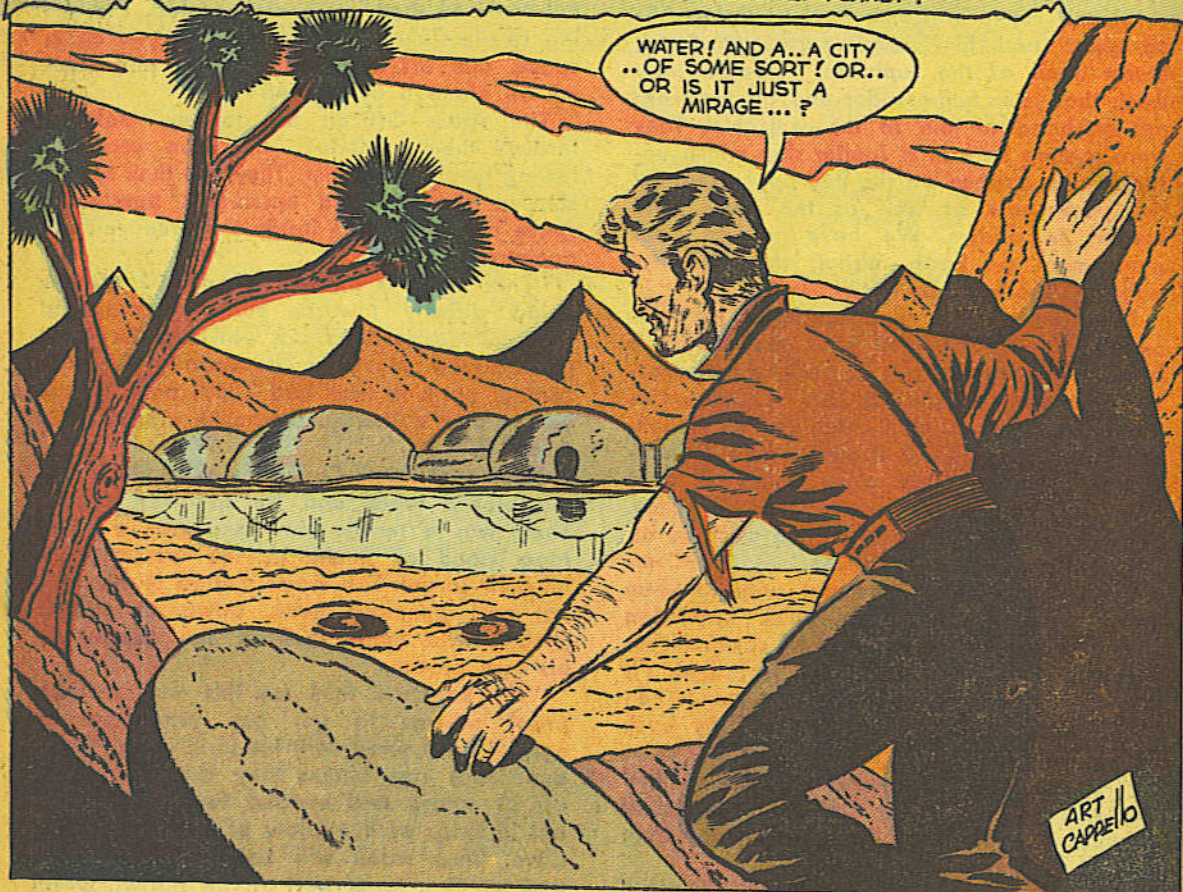
IT MAKES
ME SHUDDER TO
THINK OF IT!!!

THE
END

SPACE ADVENTURES

The Uncharted PLANET

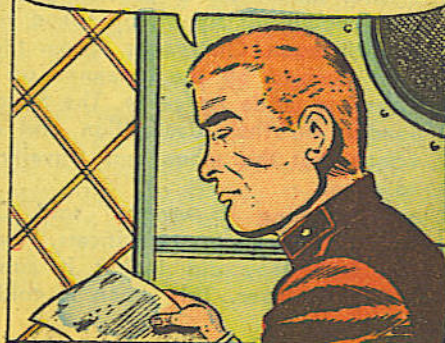
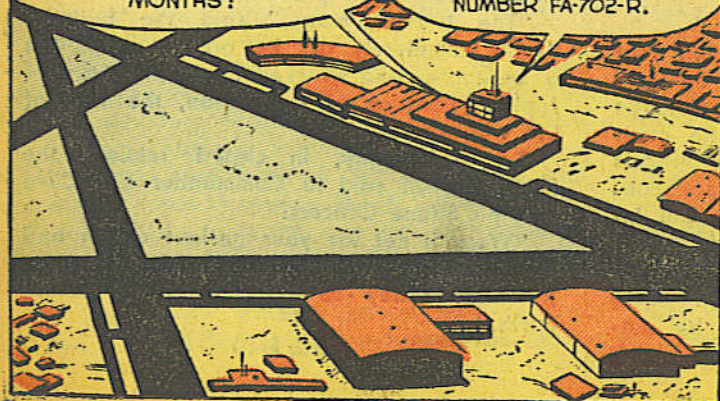
EVERYONE HAS, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, CONSIDERED THE FLIGHT OF THE UNFORTUNATE CASTAWAY ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND, OR THE ONES WHO BECOME STRANDED ON THE BURNING DESERT, OR IN THE FROZEN WASTES OF THE NORTH. BUT HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING ALONE... ON A DESOLATE, UNCHARTED PLANET?



HERE'S THE LIST OF DELINQUENT RE-LICENSES, COMMISSIONER. MOST OF THEM ARE BETWEEN PLANETS, AND WILL BE IN FOR LICENSE RENEWAL WITHIN A MONTH... BUT THIS ONE ROCKET HAS BEEN OUT FOR THIRTY-SEVEN MONTHS!

THIRTY-SEVEN MONTHS... HMM, LICENSED FOR TWO YEARS... THIRTEEN MONTHS DELINQUENT. LET'S SEE, HERE... LICENSE ISSUED TO KENNETH BAKER, PILOT, AND ROBERT LARKIN, CO-PILOT... NUMBER FA-702-R.

THEY DESCRIBE THEMSELVES HERE AS SPACE PROSPECTORS. WELL ... IT'S POSSIBLE THEY COULD STAY OUT THAT LONG, BUT I'M MORE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THEY'VE PROBABLY CRACKED UP TRYING TO LAND ON SOME OUT OF THE WAY ASTEROID OR PLANETOID. THESE PROSPECTORS WILL LAND ANYWHERE TO LOOK FOR PRECIOUS GEMS OR METAL DEPOSITS...



SPACE ADVENTURES



LISTEN, KEN, I KNOW IT'S A FIFTY-FIFTY PROPOSITION, AND WE AGREED TO GO THE LIMIT THIS TRIP. BUT WE'VE BEEN AWAY OVER THREE YEARS AND WE HAVEN'T FOUND A THING!

AND YOU WANT TO CALL IT A DAY AND HEAD FOR EARTH. IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE LEADING UP TO, BOB?



YES! I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

WELL, WE HAVEN'T A CENT BETWEEN US, YOU KNOW. WE STAKED EVERYTHING ON THIS TRIP. WE'LL HAVE TO SELL THE SHIP TO PAY OFF THE BILLS... THAT MEANS NO MORE PROSPECTING FOR US!



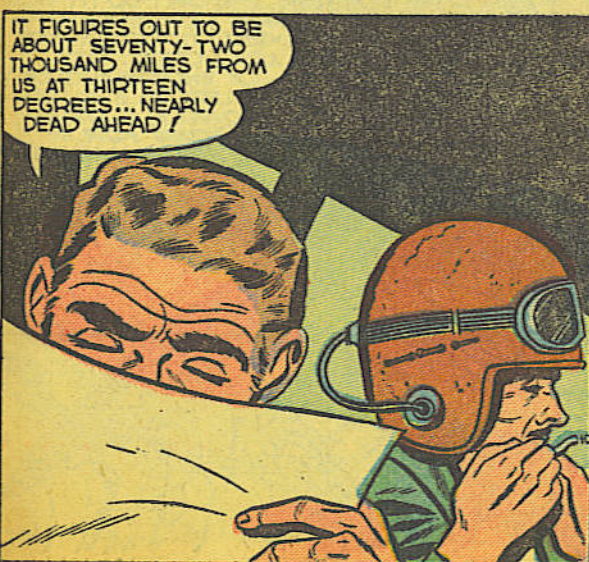
WE'LL NEVER FLY OUR OWN SHIP AGAIN, ANYWAY... WE'RE SO LONG OVERDUE ON RE-LICENSE FEES WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PAY THEM OFF!

OKAY, BOB, YOU WIN. TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'M KIND OF... WHAT'S THAT NOISE... THE RADAR PROBE?

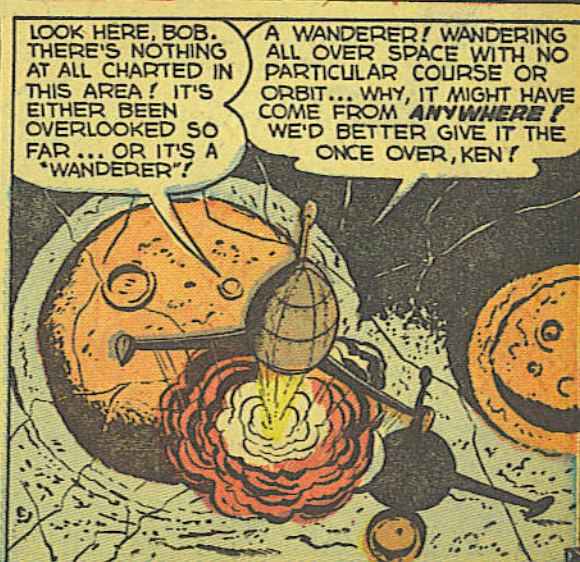


HEY... IT'S A BIG ONE! BIGGER THAN AN ASTEROID...

SMALL PLANET, PROBABLY. GET A FIX ON HER WHILE I GET OUT THE CHARTS FOR THIS REGION!



IT FIGURES OUT TO BE ABOUT SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND MILES FROM US AT THIRTEEN DEGREES... NEARLY DEAD AHEAD!

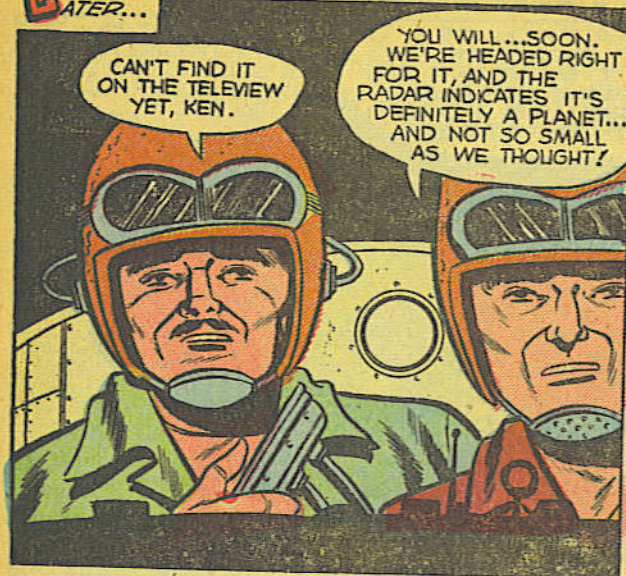


LOOK HERE, BOB. THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL CHARTED IN THIS AREA! IT'S EITHER BEEN OVERLOOKED SO FAR... OR IT'S A "WANDERER"!

A WANDERER! WANDERING ALL OVER SPACE WITH NO PARTICULAR COURSE OR ORBIT... WHY, IT MIGHT HAVE COME FROM **ANYWHERE**! WE'D BETTER GIVE IT THE ONCE OVER, KEN!

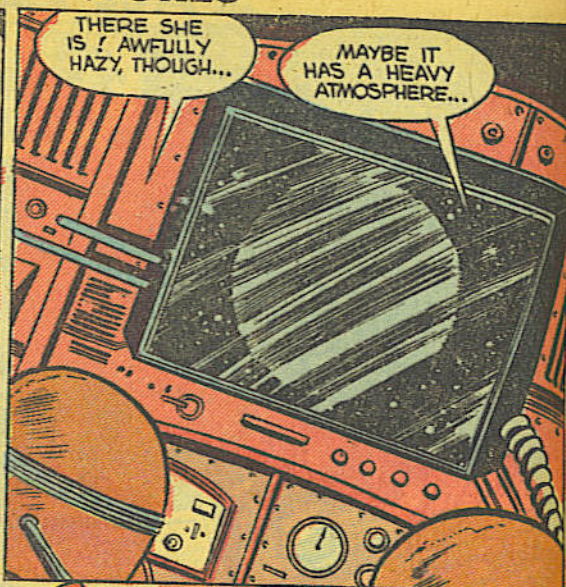
LATER...

SPACE ADVENTURES



CAN'T FIND IT ON THE TELEVIEW YET, KEN.

YOU WILL...SOON. WE'RE HEADED RIGHT FOR IT, AND THE RADAR INDICATES IT'S DEFINITELY A PLANET... AND NOT SO SMALL AS WE THOUGHT!



THERE SHE IS! AWFULLY HAZY, THOUGH...

MAYBE IT HAS A HEAVY ATMOSPHERE...

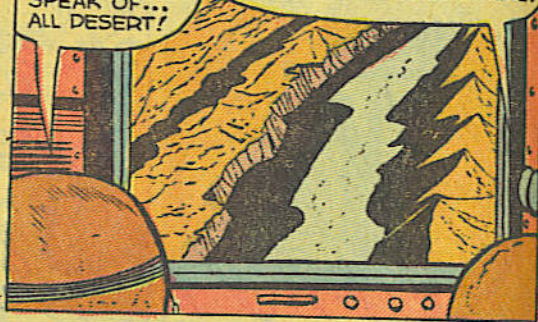


IT HAS AN ATMOSPHERE, ALL RIGHT, KEN. AND THE INSTRUMENTS SHOW IT TO BE ALMOST LIKE THAT OF EARTH'S! I THINK I CAN SEE CONTINENTS AND OCEANS ON THE TELEVIEW NOW...

SOMETIME LATER THE SHIP FINDS AN ORBIT AROUND THE ALIEN WORLD AND THE TERRAIN BELOW IS MAGNIFIED ON THE TELEVIEW PLATE UNTIL DETAILS BECOME VISIBLE.

FUNNY... PLENTY OF WATER, BUT NO TREES OR PLANT LIFE TO SPEAK OF... ALL DESERT!

PLENTY OF ROCKS, THOUGH, AND SOMETIMES ROCKS HAVE PRECIOUS METAL CONTENTS. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO DOWN? THE ATMOSPHERE TESTS OUT AS BREATHABLE.

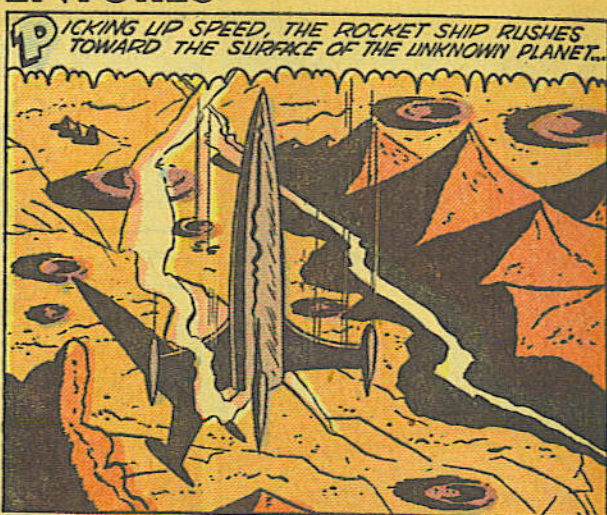
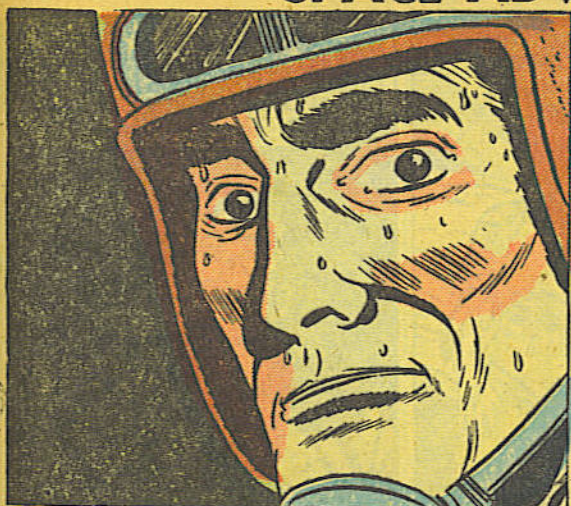


HEY.. THE INDICATOR SHOWS THAT THE BRAKING ROCKETS ARE DEAD, KEN! WE'VE GOT TO PULL UP...QUICK...!

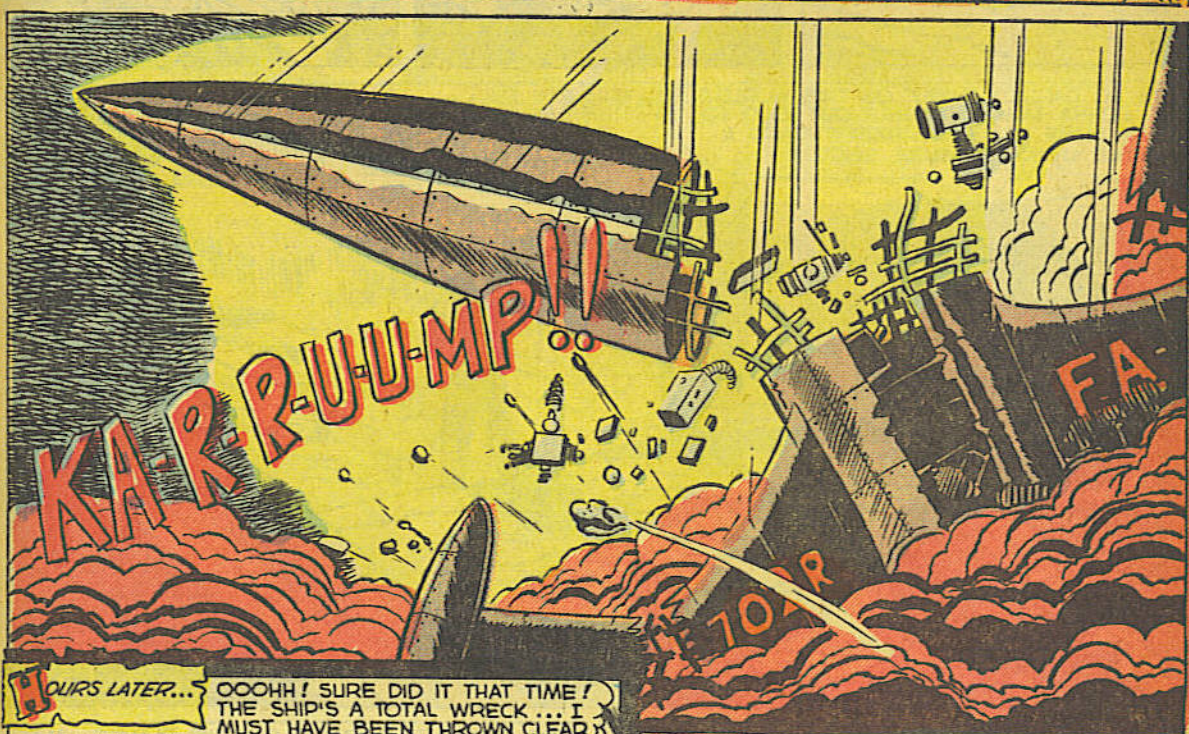
CAN'T DO IT! I'VE GOT THE THROTTLES WIDE OPEN... NOT ENOUGH ALTITUDE LEFT TO FLIP HER OVER IN! STRAP DOWN FOR A CRASH LANDING!



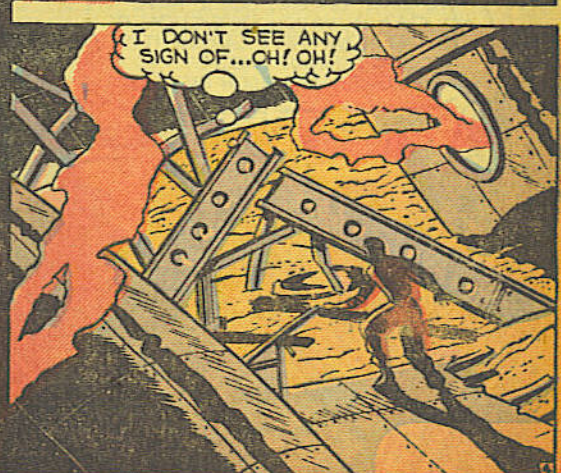
SPACE ADVENTURES



PICKING UP SPEED, THE ROCKET SHIP RUSHES TOWARD THE SURFACE OF THE UNKNOWN PLANET...

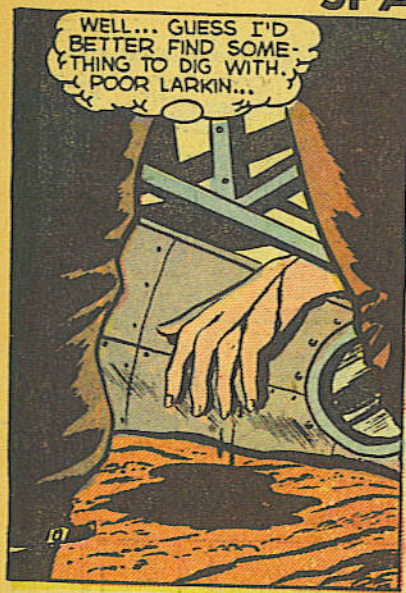


HOURS LATER...
OOOHH! SURE DID IT THAT TIME!
THE SHIP'S A TOTAL WRECK... I
MUST HAVE BEEN THROWN CLEAR
OF IT WHEN THE HULL SPLIT OPEN! NO BROKEN
BONES... I WONDER WHERE BOB IS?



I DON'T SEE ANY
SIGN OF...OH! OH!

SPACE ADVENTURES



WELL... GUESS I'D BETTER FIND SOMETHING TO DIG WITH... POOR LARKIN...

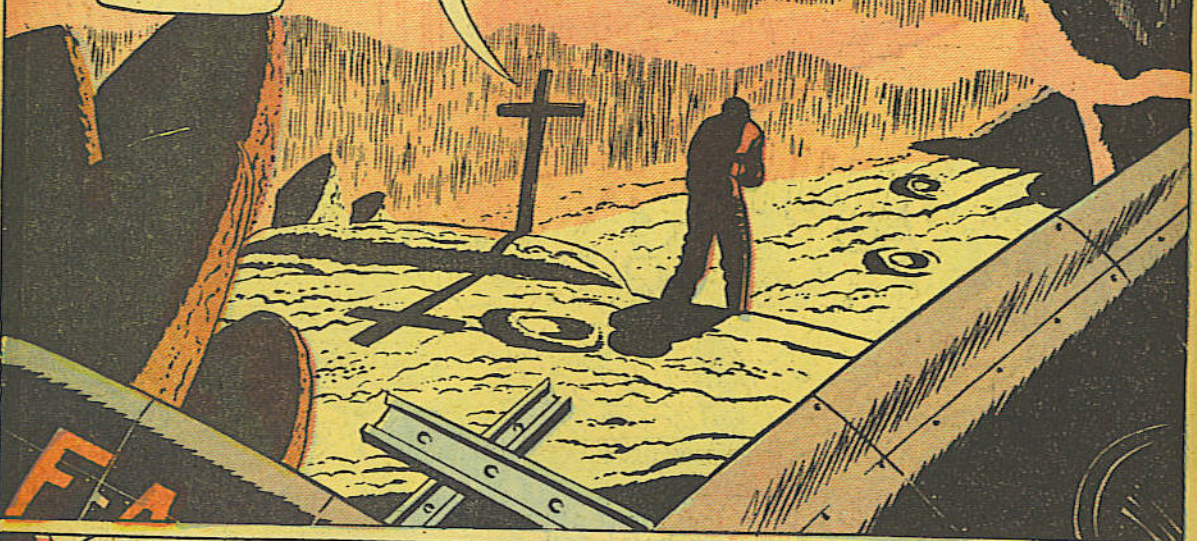


F WHY... WHAT... THAT ROCK I SCRAPPED... IT'S... IT'S...

GOLD! A SOLID HUNK OF **PURE GOLD!** AND THEY'RE LAYING AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE! OH... NO... NO! A BONANZA BEYOND OUR WILDEST DREAMS! AND WE HAD TO... TO FIND IT THIS WAY!



IT'S SO DARNED **QUIET** ON THIS WORLD! I'M GONNA TALK TO MYSELF OUT LOUD TO MAKE SOME NOISE! I HAVEN'T HEARD A SINGLE LIVING CREATURE SINCE I CAME TO.



WE SAW WATER, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA IN WHICH DIRECTION IT IS, OR HOW FAR! GUESS IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WHICH WAY I GO.

THE DAYS ARE SO LONG ON THIS PLANET... AND SO **HOT!** I'M THIRSTY... AND HUNGRY. I'M GONNA GO BATS IF I HAVE TO LOOK AT MUCH MORE OF THIS LOUSY DESERT!

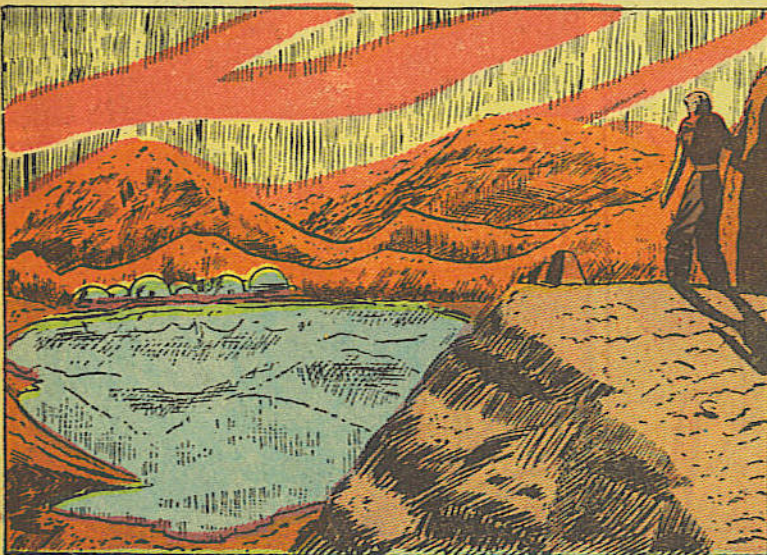


SPACE ADVENTURES

FOR TWO AND A HALF OF THE LONG DAYS BAKER FLODS SLOWLY BUT STEADILY THROUGH THE BURNING SANDS. HIS SHOES WORN THROUGH, THE HOT SURFACE HAS LONG SINCE BURNED ANY SENSE OF FEELING FROM HIS TORN AND BLOODY FEET. THE HUMAN BEING... SLOWLY LOSING A BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL AGAINST THE ELEMENTS...

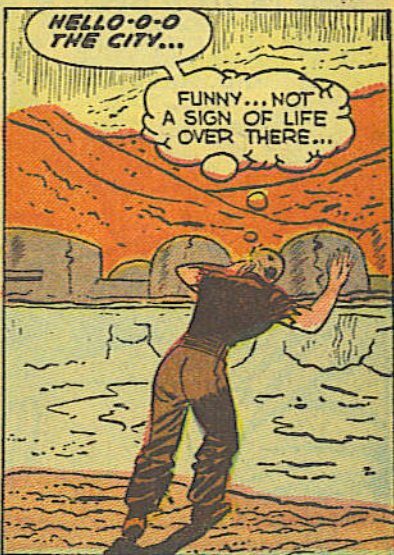


GONNA LOOK OVER THIS HILL IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! THEN I'M JUST GONNA LAY DOWN ... AND DIE!



HELLO-O-O THE CITY...

FUNNY... NOT A SIGN OF LIFE OVER THERE...

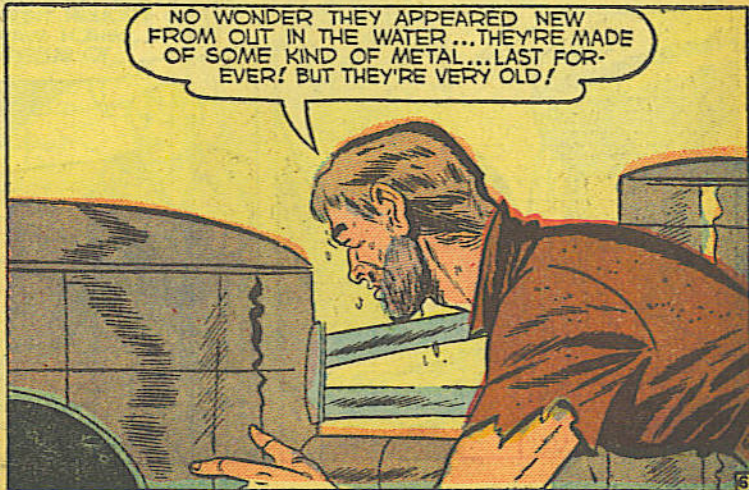


THE BUILDINGS LOOK TO BE IN GOOD REPAIR. WONDER WHY NO ONE'S AROUND THE PLACE?

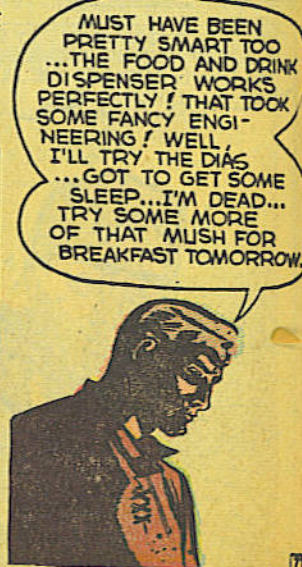
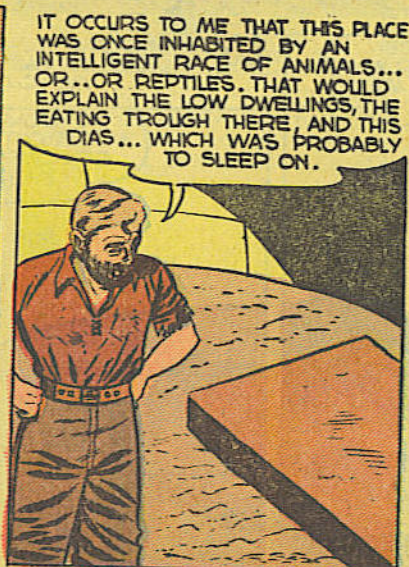
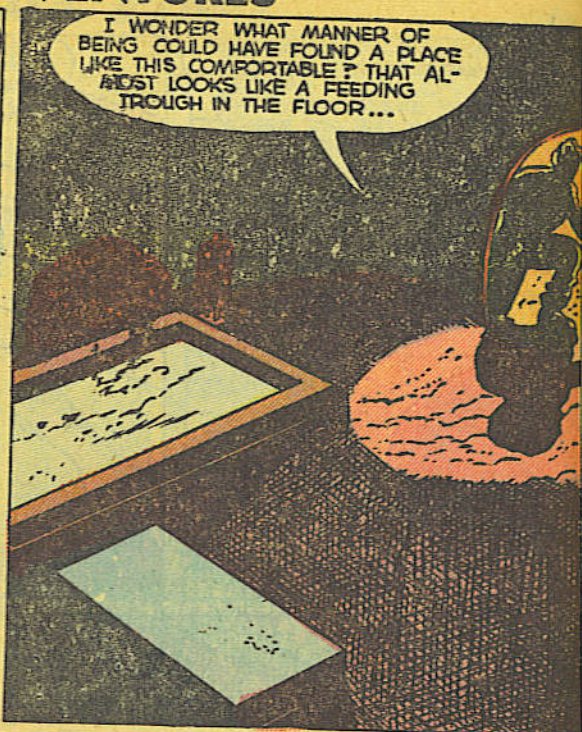


REACHING THE ISLAND, BAKER STUMBLES TOWARD THE NEAREST OF THE LOW BUILDINGS. SILENCE HANGS OVER THE CITY LIKE A PALL.

NO WONDER THEY APPEARED NEW FROM OUT IN THE WATER... THEY'RE MADE OF SOME KIND OF METAL... LAST FOREVER! BUT THEY'RE VERY OLD!



SPACE ADVENTURES

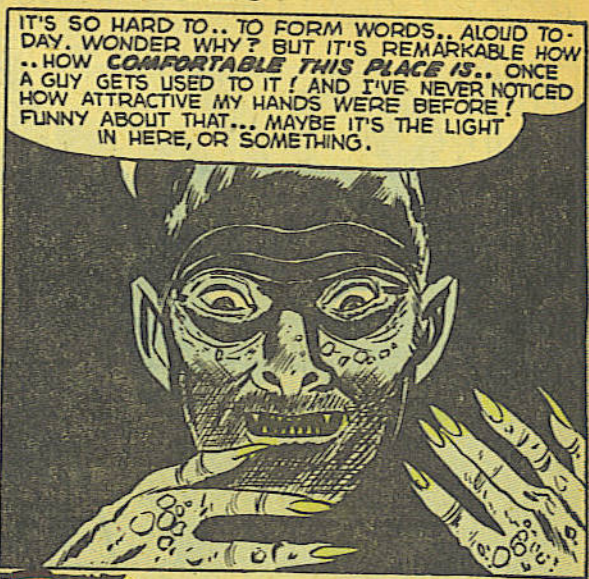


SPACE ADVENTURES

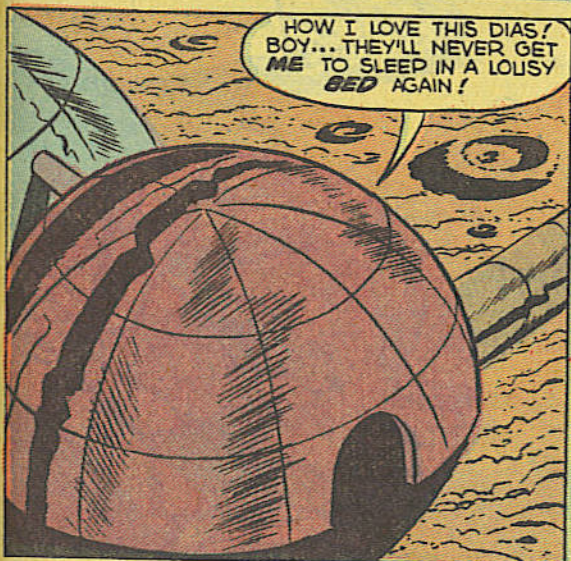


AFTER SEVERAL DAYS...

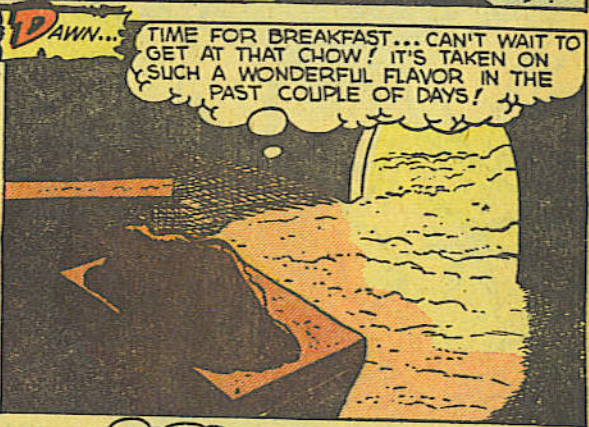
THIS STUFF DOESN'T TASTE SO BAD ANY MORE. ALMOST GOOD, MATTER OF FACT! FUNNY HOW THAT HARD DIAS FELT SO WARM AND COMFORTABLE LAST NIGHT, TOO! MUST BE GETTING USED TO THIS PLACE...



IT'S SO HARD TO... TO FORM WORDS.. ALOND TO- DAY. WONDER WHY? BUT IT'S REMARKABLE HOW ..HOW **COMFORTABLE THIS PLACE IS..** ONCE A GUY GETS USED TO IT! AND I'VE NEVER NOTICED HOW ATTRACTIVE MY HANDS WERE BEFORE! FUNNY ABOUT THAT... MAYBE IT'S THE LIGHT IN HERE, OR SOMETHING.



HOW I LOVE THIS DIAS! BOY... THEY'LL NEVER GET ME TO SLEEP IN A LOUSY **BED** AGAIN!

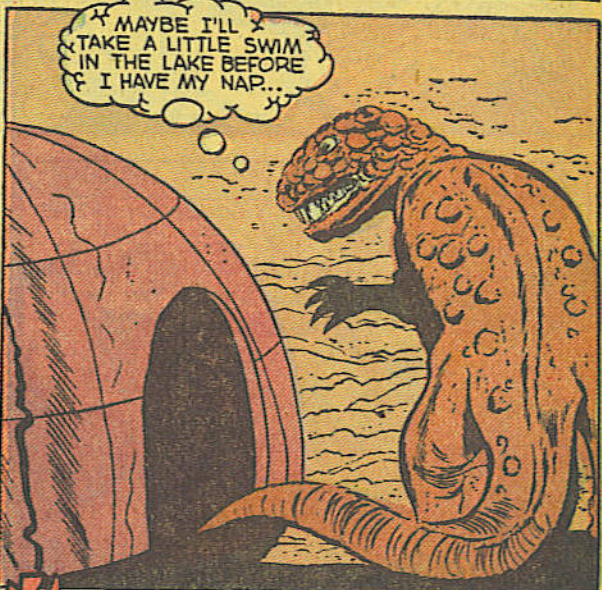


DAWN...

TIME FOR BREAKFAST... CAN'T WAIT TO GET AT THAT CHOW! IT'S TAKEN ON SUCH A WONDERFUL FLAVOR IN THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS!



AFTER BREAKFAST I'LL GO OUT AND LAY AROUND IN THE SUN...



MAYBE I'LL TAKE A LITTLE SWIM IN THE LAKE BEFORE I HAVE MY NAP...

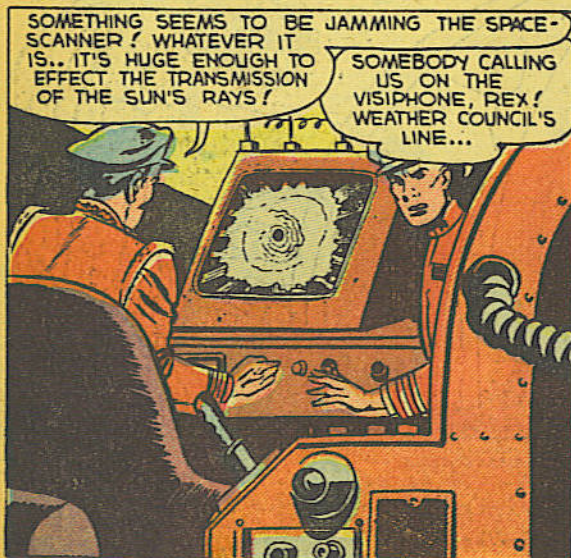
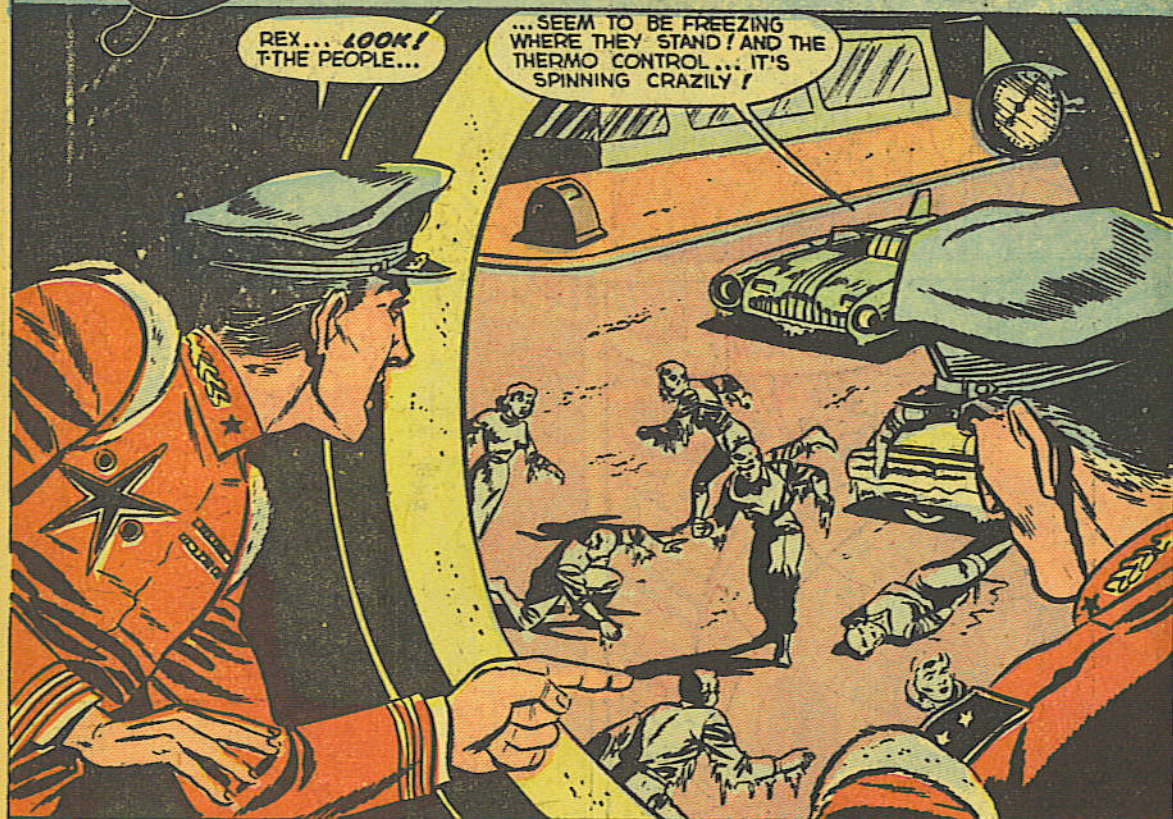
HAVING FINALLY BECOME THOROUGHLY ADAPTED TO HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS, HIS FOOD AND THE WORLD IN WHICH HE LIVES, BAKER MOVES SLOWLY AWAY FROM HIS DWELLING PLACE, GRUNTING CONTENTEDLY...

THE END

SPACE ADVENTURES

IN THE YEAR 2553 A.D. A GHASTLY PHENOMENON SEIZED THE EARTH. ACCUSTOMED TO THE ETERNAL WARMTH AND SUNSHINE PROVIDED BY ITS SOLAR RADIATION GENERATORS, THE PLANET SUDDENLY FOUND ITSELF CONFRONTED BY...

THE Black DOOM



SPACE ADVENTURES

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, IN THE STREETS OF METROPOLE-1...



O-ONLY MIDDAY AND NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY... YET IT'S GROWING DARK!

BRRR! C-COLDER, TOO! WHAT IN THE COSMOS CAN BE HAPPENING?

A-ALL THE HEAT SEEMS TO BE LEAVING MY BODY! WHAT CAN WE DO, COMMODORE?

GET TO YOUR HOMES AS FAST AS YOU CAN, AND TURN ON ALL OF YOUR SOLAR LAMPS! SOME THING IN THE GALAXY SEEMS TO BE OUT OF WHACK!



HURRYING TO WEATHER COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, REX CLIVE HEARS THE DREADFUL NEWS FIRST-HAND...

...AND OUR ASTRAL RADAR SEEMS UNABLE TO TELL JUST WHAT IS FREEZING THE CITY...

URGENT FLASH FROM SPATIAL OBSERVATION POST, SIR! T-THE SUN SEEMS TO BE FADING IN INTENSITY... LITERALLY DYING!



PANIC HAS GRIPPED METROPOLE-1! THE PEOPLE ARE FREEZING TO DEATH IN THE STREETS...

AND EVEN THOSE CLOSE TO SOLAR LAMPS ARE GOING MAD WITH ANXIETY! WE'RE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO DEVIATIONS IN TEMPERATURE...

THIS CALLS FOR A HURRY-UP FLIGHT INTO SPACE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!



SPEEDING TO THE SPACEPORT, REX AND SPEED BOARD THEIR JET AND SCREAM OFF INTO THE SKY...

IF **SOME-THING** HAS PERMANENTLY CRIPPLED THE SUN, REX, THERE'S NOTHING WE...

I'VE GOT A HUNCH THERE'S **SOMEONE** BACK OF THIS, SPEED! HOLD TIGHT... I'M GIVING IT FULL-JET AHEAD!

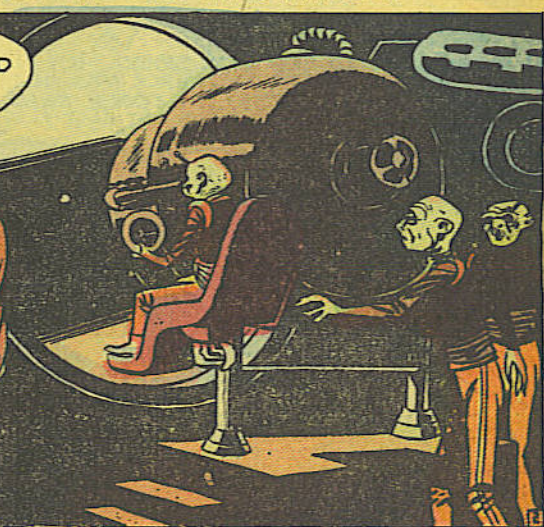


MEANWHILE, A VAST DISTANCE FROM THE EARTH, IN THE IONIC ATMOSPHERE...



WE'RE ABSORBING THE SUN'S RAYS JUST AS YOU ORDERED, ROJ!

SPLENDID! KEEP THE BLACK-RAY FOCUSED ON THEIR WRETCHED CAPITAL...



SPACE ADVENTURES

...WHEN A FEW THOUSAND OF THEM SHRIVEL TO DEATH, THEY'LL BE FORCED TO SURRENDER ON **MY** TERMS! THE FOOLS PROBABLY THINK THEIR SUN IS FAILING... THEY'LL HAIL ME AS THEIR SAVIOUR WHEN I RESTORE THE WARMTH THEY NEED TO SURVIVE!



A CRAFT SIGHTED, ROJ! HEADED THIS WAY...

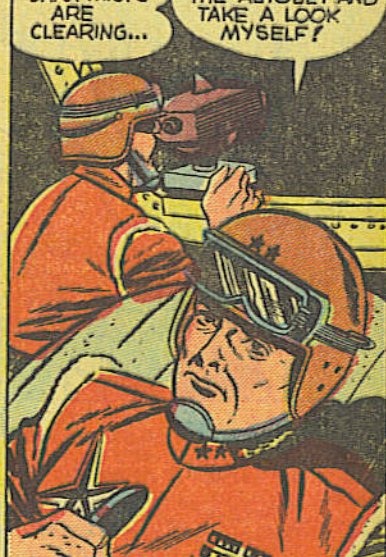


GOOD! MY PLAN IS SUCCEEDING! WE CAN'T EXIST FOR LONG ON OUR SPACE CITY... WE MUST HAVE A PLANET, PEOPLED WITH SLAVES, IF WE ARE TO REARM TO INVADE OUR GALAXY!

ON THE SPACECRAFT CAPTAINED BY REX CLIVE, THE SPACE KING, A STARTLING REVELATION IS NOTED...

G-GOOD GOLGOTHA, REX! THOSE DARK MISTS ARE CLEARING...

KEEP THE TELE-SCANNER STEADY, SPEED! I'LL SET THE AUTOJET AND TAKE A LOOK MYSELF!

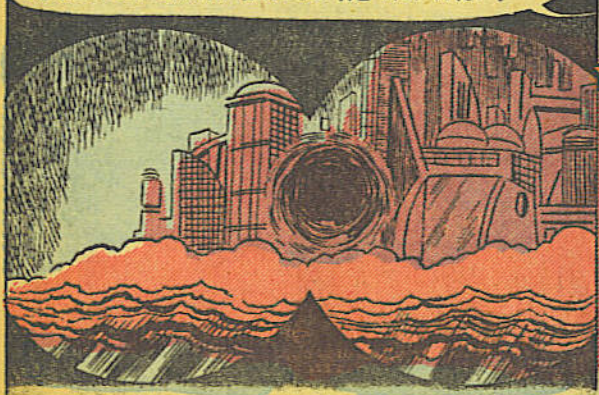


THERE'S AN ENORMOUS FLOATING CITY OUT THERE... JUST HANGING IN SPACE!

HMM. PROBABLY HELD ALOFT BY PROPELLO RAYS. BUT WHY SHOULD **THAT** AFFECT THE SUN'S RAYS?

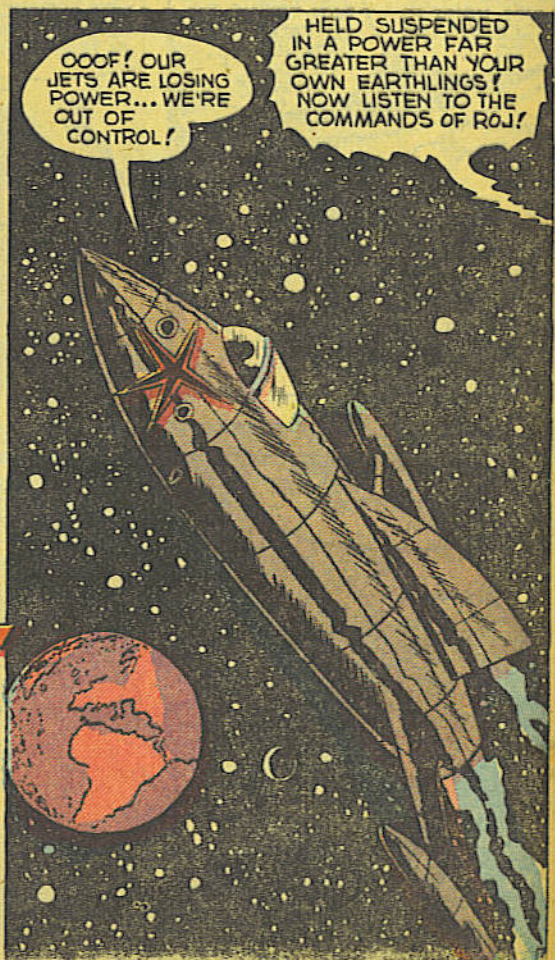


I'M BEGINNING TO SEE LIGHT SPEED... BUT IN THIS CASE IT'S **DARKNESS!** THAT BLACK AREA IN THE CENTER OF THE PLANETOID... IT **COULD** MEAN DOOM FOR EARTH UNLESS WE ACT FAST!



OOOF! OUR JETS ARE LOSING POWER... WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL!

HELD SUSPENDED IN A POWER FAR GREATER THAN YOUR OWN EARTHINGS! NOW LISTEN TO THE COMMANDS OF ROJ!



SPACE ADVENTURES

THOSE BLACK-RAYS...
THEY'RE NUMBING US,
EVEN IN OUR
PRESSURIZED
SUITS!

NOW, PERHAPS, YOU
WILL REALIZE HOW
POWERLESS YOU ARE
IN THE HANDS OF ROJ!
IT IS A FORTUNATE
THING FOR YOU AND
YOUR PLANET THAT I
DO NOT INTEND TO
HARM EARTH! NOW
LISTEN CLOSELY...

I WISH TO CONFER HERE ON MY
PLANETOID WITH THE MEMBERS OF
YOUR GLOBAL CONTROL BOARD, SO THAT
WE MAY JOIN FORCES AGAINST A
POWER WHICH THREATENS YOUR PEOPLE
AND MINE! THIS CONFERENCE MUST
TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY... DELAY
WILL RESULT IN EARTH'S DESTRUCTION!

BRRR! THAT BLACK-RAY'S
BEEN SHUT OFF...
I'M BEGINNING TO
THAW OUT! WHAT
CAN WE DO, REX?

FOLLOW
ORDERS,
SPEED...
AND DO A
LITTLE HIGH-
VELOCITY
THINKING!

AND SO, MINUTES LATER, BACK ON EARTH...

WE RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE, COMMODORE.
THE CONTROL BOARD HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED...
THE MEMBERS ARE WAITING FOR YOUR REPORT!
RIGHT THIS WAY...

... THEREFORE, THERE SEEMS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT FOR YOU
MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL CONTROL BOARD TO CONFER WITH
THIS ROJ, ON HIS DARK PLANETOID! A FEW
HOURS OF HIS BLACK-RAY BOMBARDMENT AND
THERE WOULD BE NO LIFE ON EARTH!

I HAVE AN IDEA WHICH WILL
TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR TO
EXECUTE. SINCE ALL EARTHINGS
APPEAR DOOMED BY THIS MAD-
MAN, ANYWAY... IT'S WORTH A
CHANCE! AND SO, SINCE YOU
HAVE AGREED ON THE CONFER-
ENCE, BE PREPARED TO
LEAVE AS SOON AS MY
SHIP IS READY...

SPACE ADVENTURES



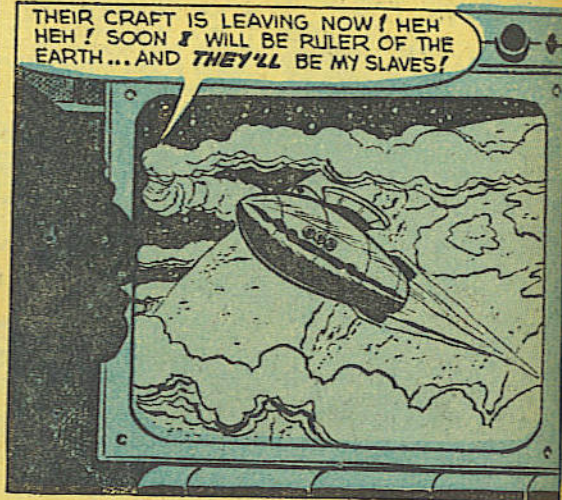
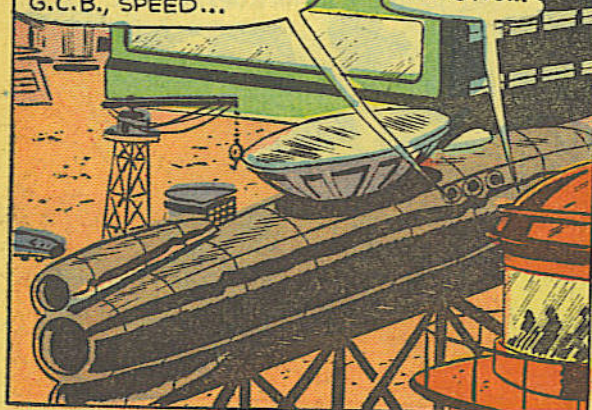
WORKING FEVERISHLY, A CORPS OF MECHANICS FOLLOW REX'S ORDERS...

IT TOOK SOME TIME JUST TO HUNT UP WHAT I WANTED, BUT NOW WE'RE READY! SUMMON THE MEMBERS OF THE G.C.B., SPEED...

Y-YOU'RE THE BOSS, REX! THIS IS LIKE FIGHTING MARTIANS WITH BOWS AND ARROWS...

GRIMLY, THE EARTHLINGS ROAR OFF IN THEIR STRANGE CRAFT... WHILE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY IN SPACE...

THEIR CRAFT IS LEAVING NOW! HEH HEH! SOON I WILL BE RULER OF THE EARTH... AND **THEY'LL** BE MY SLAVES!



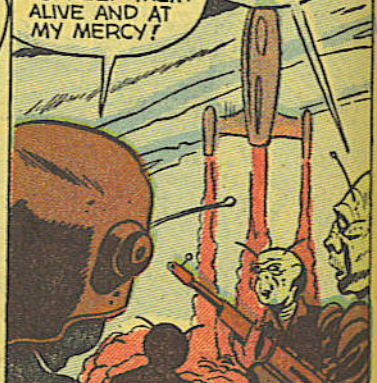
THE IDIOTS FAIL TO REALIZE THAT ONCE THEY'VE SURRENDERED THEIR PLANET, I WILL HOLD THEM IN ETERNAL SUBJECTION BY KEEPING THE BLACK-RAY AIMED AT EARTH FROM THIS PLANETOID... AND TURNING IT ON OFTEN ENOUGH TO INSURE THAT THEIR PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS NEAR-FREEZING AND HELPLESS...

THE EARTHLINGS' CRAFT IS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS, ROJ! THEY ARE USING A SPACE-HOPPER LAUNCHED FROM THE MOTHER SHIP TO PROVE THEIR GOOD FAITH...

FOOLS! IN A FEW MINUTES THEY WILL BE MY SLAVES...

AS SOON AS THEY LAND, USE YOUR RAY GUNS ON THEM! NOT A FATAL BLAST... JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM ALIVE AND AT MY MERCY!

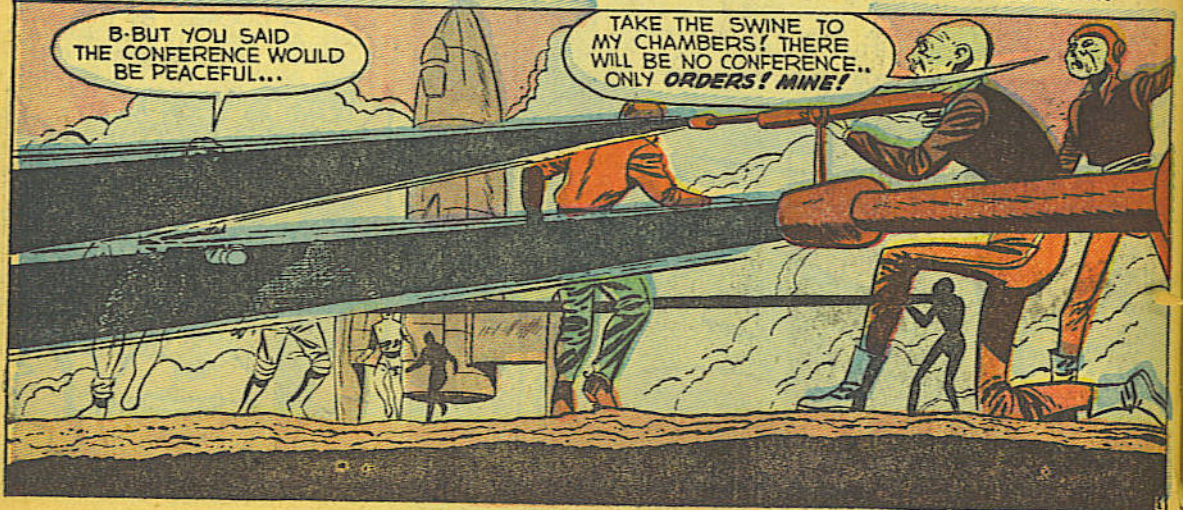
YOUR WISH IS OUR COMMAND, O ROJ!



THE SPACE-HOPPER TOUCHES DOWN ON THE PLANETOID, THE HATCH IS OPENED... AND THE FIVE EARTHLINGS STEP OUT, ONLY TO BE ENSNARED BY STABBING RAYS OF BLACK...

B-BUT YOU SAID THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE PEACEFUL...

TAKE THE SWINE TO MY CHAMBERS! THERE WILL BE NO CONFERENCE... ONLY **ORDERS! MINE!**



SPACE ADVENTURES

...AND SO YOU SEE, WITH THE G.C.B. HERE IN MY POWER, THE EARTHLINGS ARE NOT LIKELY TO WAGE A WAR WHICH COULD ONLY RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR PLANET! FOR I NEED A PLACE LIKE EARTH FROM WHICH TO WAGE MY WAR AGAINST THE GALAXY WHICH EXILED ME...AND I REQUIRE SLAVES BY THE MILLIONS!



MY PLANETOID CANNOT SUSTAIN LIFE MUCH LONGER... BUT THE EARTH, DARKENED BY OUR BLACK-RAYS WILL BE A WONDERFUL BASE OF OPERATIONS! OF COURSE, VAST NUMBERS OF EARTHLINGS WILL FREEZE TO DEATH IN THE TEMPERATURE MY PEOPLE AND I REQUIRE!



W-WHY..YOU MURDEROUS SPACE-SCUM...

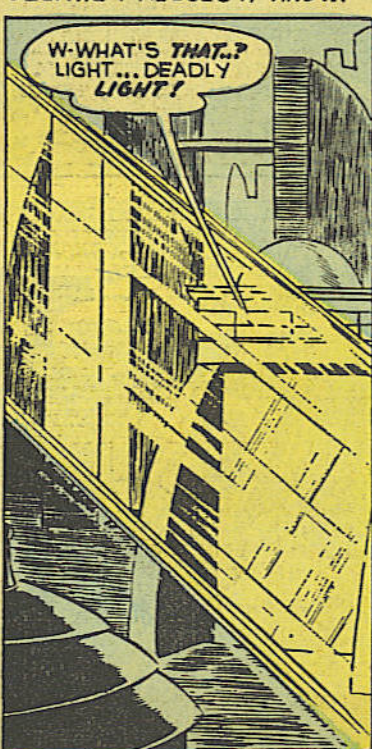
ANYONE ELSE WHO WISHES TO RAISE HIS PUNY VOICE IN OBJECTION WILL BE PUT IN DEEP-FREEZE LIKE YOUR IMPETUOUS COMPANION! NOW I WILL TELL YOU OUR SECRET, SINCE YOU ARE POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...



MY PEOPLE AND I SURVIVE ONLY IN DARKNESS...AND THAT'S WHY I INTEND TO ENGULF YOUR PLANET IN WHAT YOU WILL PROBABLY CONSIDER A BLACK DOOM! THE SUN'S RAYS WILL NEVER AGAIN BE PERMITTED TO WARM THE EARTH...



UNSEEN BY THE OTHERS, REX'S HAND MOVES STEALTHILY TOWARD A TINY BUTTON ON HIS BELT. HE PRESSES IT AND...



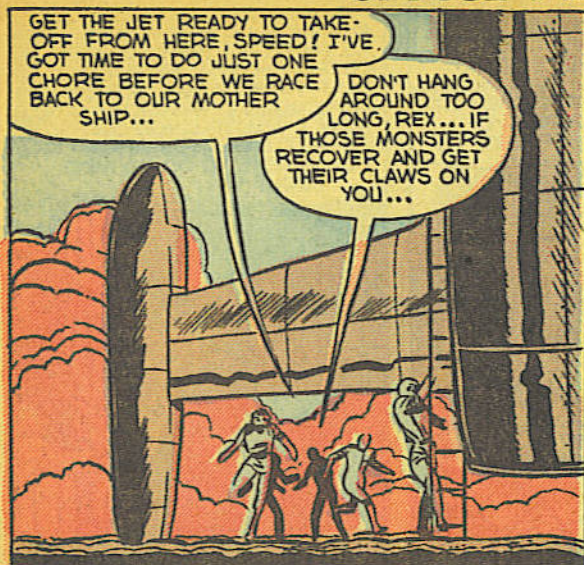
W-WHAT'S THAT..? LIGHT... DEADLY LIGHT!

F-FIND THE SOURCE OF THIS CURSED LIGHT... BOMBARD IT WITH BLACK-RAYS! HURRY!

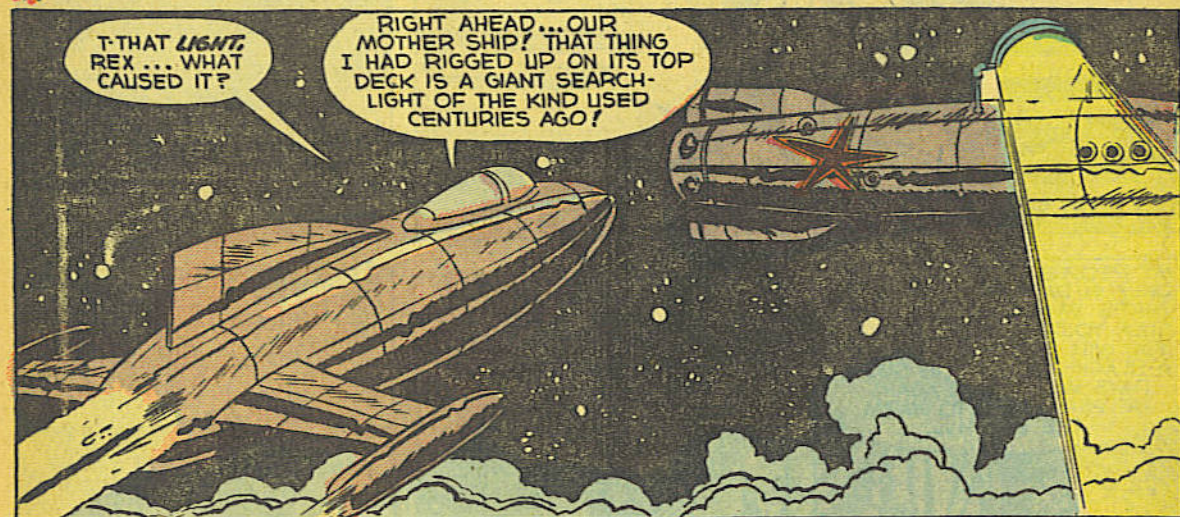


WE HAVE SOME HURRYING OF OUR OWN TO DO! QUICK... DOUBLE-TIME! BACK TO OUR SPACE-HOPPER!

SPACE ADVENTURES



WITH SECONDS TO SPARE, THE EARTHLINGS TAKE OFF IN THEIR SPACE-HOPPER...

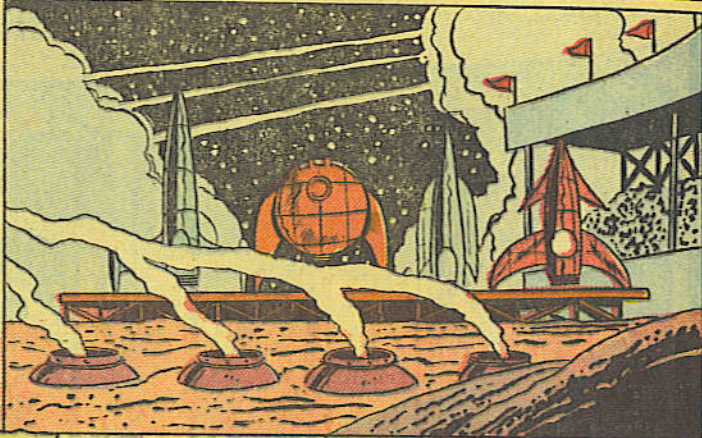
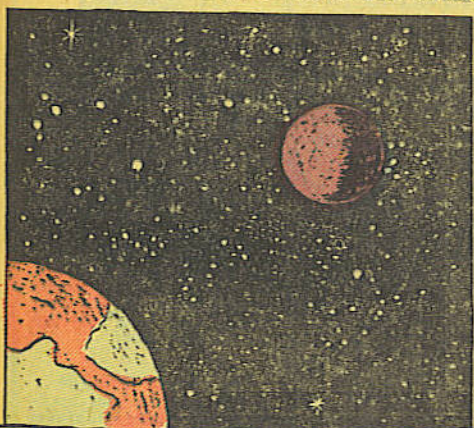


SPACE ADVENTURES

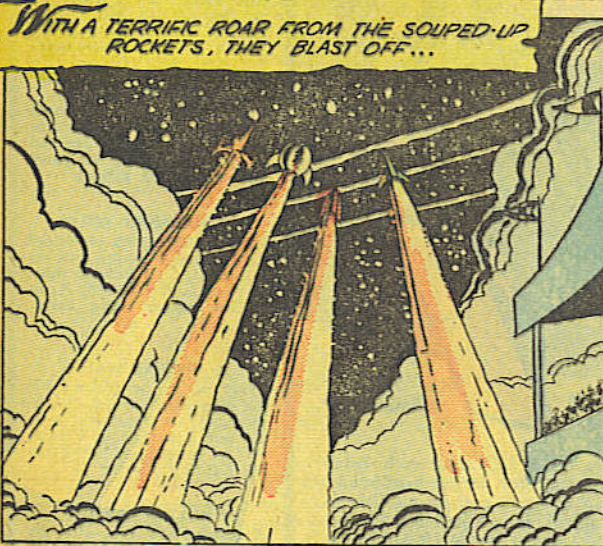
RACE TO THE MOON

THE MEN OF TOMORROW WILL FIND AUTO CAR RACING TOO TAME AND WILL LOOK TO THE UNIVERSE FOR NEW HIGH SPEED THRILLS

SO LET US VENTURE INTO THAT ERA WHERE WE FIND A RACE TO THE MOON ABOUT TO BEGIN.



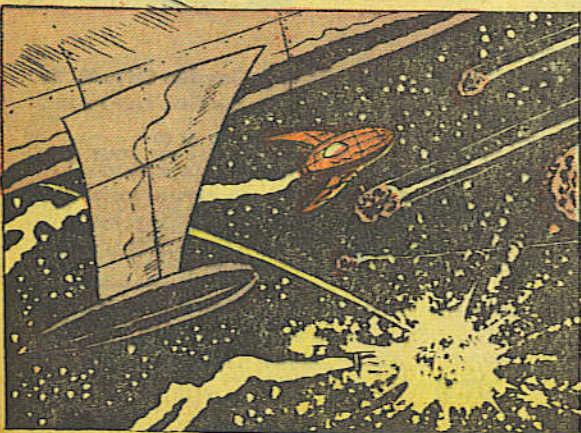
WITH A TERRIFIC ROAR FROM THE SOUPED-UP ROCKETS, THEY BLAST OFF...



STRANGELY ENOUGH THE WINNER IS USUALLY DETERMINED ONCE THE PACK BREAKS THE EARTH'S GRAVITY, BECAUSE FROM THEN ON THEY MUST ALL FALL TO THE MOON AT THE SAME SPEED.



HOWEVER, SKILL AND THRILLS ARE ADDED IN DODGING ASTEROIDS.



THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE NO MORE THAN THE WINNER OF TODAY... A PERSONAL EXHILARATION ONE GETS FROM BEING FIRST IN A COMPETITIVE FIELD.

